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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk March 2, 2014

North & West Edition No 597



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Rebuilding trust in our police

Federation chief on the scars of Plebgate and funding cuts

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MEP: Why we must stay in EU

Europe is good for our health, claims politician

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Crisis in our schools

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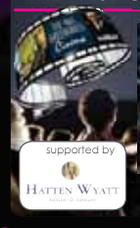
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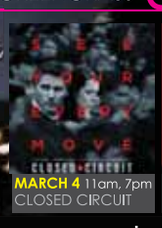


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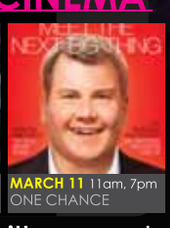
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March 2, 2014 **No 597** **www.kentnews.co.uk**

A traumatic week in education is one we must learn from

FOR anyone who has had to change school mid-term, they will know from bitter experience just what an often traumatic experience it can be.

Ripped away from established friends and routines, the social cycle which is then required to integrate yourself within what is a microcosm of society, is both extensive and unsettling.

And that's not to mention the stress and strain on the parents who suffer the anxiety of resettling their children while at the same time forking out for all the required uniform and equipment.

Little wonder, then, that confirmation this week that one of the county's major secondary schools is to close has been met with dismay by parents and children alike.

It also is a clear demonstration of how a successful school can find itself falling into the abyss in the amount of time it takes one child to progress from first year to fifth.

Yet while the shockwaves continue, there is plenty of good cheer for the thousands who attend the campuses of K College. Finally, it seems, after two years of turmoil and uncertainty, all of its campuses have found safe pairs of hands to guide them into the future.

What's more it demonstrates the remarkable rise of Hadlow College into one of the county's foremost educational establishments.

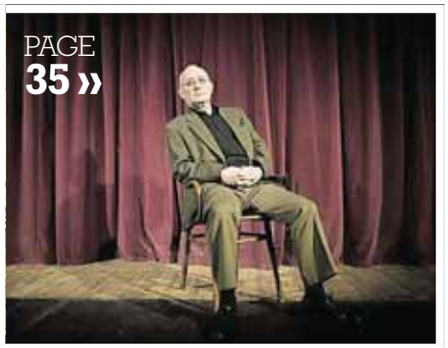
Perhaps never more so than in today's uncertain economic climate, has the ability to deliver an intelligent, trained workforce for the future been more essential. Not just for the personal prospects of that emerging generation but for the county's economic prosperity.

It is in all of our interests to ensure pupils are supported and their talents nurtured. Enjoy your weekend.



Editor **Chris Britcher**


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School sex abuse probe: Three men due in court

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk



FORMER SITE: Swaylands has long since closed and has now been turned into residential flats

THREE men have been charged with a total of 53 offences relating to sexual abuse of children at Swaylands School in Penshurst between 1967 and 1993 - and will appear before a court later this month.

It follows a lengthy and complex investigation by the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate which identified multiple victims.

Colwyn Baker, 70, from Morningside, Edinburgh, has been charged with 29 counts of indecent assault and five charges of buggery.

David Thomas Hennessy, 73, of Westfields, Narborough, Kings Lynn, has been charged with 16 counts of indecent assault.

Nigel Anthony Putman, 61, of Kings Road, Slough, has been charged with three counts of indecent assault.

The three men will appear before Maidstone Magistrates Court on March 11.

Swaylands School was set up in 1942 and between the mid-1960s and 1994 was operated and managed by the London borough of Barnet.

The boarding school was closed on July 31, 1994. The building has subsequently been turned into flats.

Pupils with learning, emotional and behavioural difficulties aged between seven and 19 years old were placed there by local authorities across London and the south east of England.

Peter Saunders, chief executive of the National Association for People Abused in Childhood, said: "Victims can sometimes find it difficult to come forward and speak to police about crimes that happened a long time ago.

"Investigations are important in bringing offenders before the courts.

"The impact on victims can have lasting effects throughout their lives. NAPAC is working with Kent Police to address the fears and concerns of those victims.

"Our national free-phone support line is 0800 085 3330 or website www.napac.org.uk.

"NAPAC supports survivors of all forms of childhood abuse.

"If you are still struggling to come to terms with what you suffered as a child, please get in touch. We understand."

Anyone needing advice on abuse or serious assault see kent.police.uk/advice.

There has been a big surge in the number of so-called 'historic' sex crimes being reported to police following the headlines generated by the Jimmy Savile scandal.

Prison report flags up concerns over suicide and impact of drug use

PRISON chiefs at Blantyre House have vowed to eradicate concerns raised about the jail following a recent visit by inspectors.

Although the report was generally positive, there were concerns which included a suicide and two serious assaults – the latter believed to have been caused by the avability of the cannabis-substitute Spice.

HMP Blantyre House, in Goudhurst, is a semi-open prison which tends to specialise in prisoners reaching the end of long sentences and being prepared for release.

Although the report by the HM Inspectorate of Prisons highlighted "excellent staff-prisoner relationships" and a "decent" environment where "few felt unsafe" it also raised concerns about how it was responding to recent changes in its intake of in-mates.

The report explained: "In 2010 the prison had been able to select the prisoners it held and was able to tailor its services to meet a significant but narrow range of needs.

"At the time of this inspection... Blantyre House could no longer select who it held. As a consequence the prison was holding men who presented a wider range of needs and risks than before but its work and resources had not been sufficiently adjusted to meet these new requirements.

"There had been two recent serious assaults, which appeared, in part, to be due to the availability of Spice - a synthetic cannabinoid - and associated debt and bullying.

"There was very little self-harm but a self-inflicted death shortly before the inspection, the first at the prison, underlined that there was no room for complacency."

Michael Spurr, CEO of the National Offender Management Service, said: "It has highlighted Blantyre House as a good resettlement prison with safe and productive conditions.

"We recognise the population is more complex and challenging than previously and the governor and his team will continue to have the support needed to take forward the recommendations in the report."

Colin Ash-Smith appears in court over Tiltman murder

A FORMER milkman charged with the murder of schoolgirl Claire Tiltman some 21 years after her death made his first appearance in court on Friday morning.

Colin Ash-Smith, 45, was charged earlier this month after the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate handed a file of evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service following a cold case review.

He appeared at Maidstone Magistrates' Court via video link and did not enter a plea. He was remanded in custody and will appear at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday.

Claire Tiltman, known to her friends as 'Tilt', was brutally stabbed to death as she walked to visit a friend close to her home in Greenhithe in January 1993. She was just 16.

School plunged into special measures after Ofsted visit

A SECONDARY school in Ashford has been put into special measures by Ofsted inspectors after a damning report rated it as 'inadequate' across the board.

As a consequence, the head teacher of the North School in Willesborough, Lesley Ellis, is believed to have stepped down and been replaced by Jon Whitcombe.

The Ofsted report, published on Monday following a visit in December, slammed the leadership, teaching, achievements and behaviour at the school. A previous inspection in 2012 had found the school to be 'satisfactory'.

Turn to page 9 for in-depth coverage of the closure of one Canterbury school and developments at K College.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Raids after crooks targeted snoozing travellers

MORE than 200 police officers were involved in dawn raids to crack down on crooks who preyed on sleeping passengers using late night trains from London into Kent and Sussex.

Some 20 addresses in Chatham, Dartford, Gravesend and Gillingham were targeted as part of what British Transport Police and Kent Police dubbed Operation Illinois on Wednesday.

A total of 23 people were arrested in connection with theft-related offences.

Supt Jason Bunyard, of the BTP, said: ''There are lots of things that passengers can do to make sure they protect themselves from thieves. Remember to keep your valuables hidden if you're going to sleep and always zip up any hand or shoulder bags.

''Keep mobile phones hidden.''

Cameron enters debate over where next Thames Crossing will be situated

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

DISCUSSIONS over the location of the next Thames Crossing entered Downing Street this week when a host of MPs, including three from Kent, met David Cameron to put forward their views.

Dartford's Gareth Johnson, Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch and Gravesham's Adam Holloway joined Jackie Doyle Price, MP for Thurrock, and MP for Basildon and East Thurrock Stephen Metcalfe, in the meeting with the Prime Minister.

There are two options left on the table for a new crossing after a third option – which would have seen a link created between the Swanscombe Peninsula and the A1089 in Tilbury in Essex – was ruled out.

It was an option which would have almost certainly ended ambitions for the large Paramount-branded entertainment complex, which is promising to create thousands of jobs and plough millions into the local economy.



PM: David Cameron met with MPs

The remaining options are for a new crossing to be built at the existing Dartford/Thurrock site next to the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge or for a crossing connecting the M2 with the A13 and the M25 between junctions 29 and 30, crossing the Thames east of Gravesend.

Free-flowing tolls are due to be introduced at the Dartford Crossing in the autumn and MPs are keen the Government should wait to see what impact they have before making a decision.

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson has been fighting against another crossing in his constituency.

He said: "People in Dartford are fed up with the misery the crossing has given them over many years.

"I have always felt it would be premature to give the go-ahead to another Thames crossing right now.

"Next autumn the automated booths come into operation and it would be far more beneficial to monitor the effects of this before committing to another Thames crossing in north west Kent."

Equally defiant, MP Adam Holloway is fighting the Gravesend option saying it will damage countryside and destroy villages.

A final decision could be made later this year.



WINNER: Champion Lizzy Yarnold

Olympic star Lizzy jets back in after glory

GOLDEN girl Lizzy Yarnold returned to the UK after the closing ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympic Games on Monday – and then joined other Team GB medal-winners at a special reception at Downing Street.

The 25-year-old from West Kingsdown won gold in the skeleton event - Team GB's only gold of the Games.

She also held aloft the Union flag during the closing ceremony last Sunday.

In meeting Prime Minister David Cameron she said it had been "a great week" as she adjusted to her new-found fame.

Meanwhile, while a bid to get a letter-box painted gold by the Royal Mail to celebrate Miss Yarnold's success appears to have fallen on deaf ears, on Monday a bus painted gold in her honour will start operating through her home town.

Bus firm Arriva confirmed the number 478, which runs through West Kingsdown and the nearby villages of Eynsford and Farningham, on its way to Swanley, will be in service from Monday and be gold in honour of Miss Yarnold.

Spokesman Richard Lewis said: "We are proud of Lizzy's achievement and, as we serve her local community, we felt that a gold bus would be a fitting way to draw attention to her success."

Shard celebrates its one millionth visitor

A BIRTHDAY surprise for his partner turned into a celebration all round for Paul Olding as he became the one millionth visitor to the top of London's most dramatic new landmark.

Just after 10.30am on Wednesday, Mr Olding, from Hadlow, near Tonbridge, walked in and chalked up the milestone for the View from The Shard attraction.

It sits on top of western Europe's tallest building, next to London Bridge station.

Mr Olding was visiting with his partner Julie Battell and had booked the tickets to celebrate her birthday.

The couple received a bottle of Champagne, gifts and souvenirs and a lifetime pass to visit the attraction.

The View from The Shard is the highest vantage point from any building in western Europe.

It is the only place where it is possible to see the entire city of London at once, with 360-degree views over the capital for up to 40 miles.

Beaver takes shelter from rain under car

ANIMAL inspectors are trying to discover how a beaver ended up taking shelter from the bad weather under a car in Thanet last week.

The rodent was found trapped under a car in Cliffsend.

RSPCA Thanet centre manager Clive Martin was called to collect the creature in a dog crate before transporting him to the animal centre.

An inspector subsequently took him on to the Wildwood Trust, in Herne, near Canterbury, for specialised care.

It is believed the beaver had strayed away from the nearby Ham Fen nature reserve, near Sandwich, where a colony of European beavers help to maintain and restore the rare fenland wildlife habitat.

Mr Martin said: ''We think that in all the bad weather recently he got into difficulties.

''He was fairly flat and listless when I picked him up. He is now being monitored at Wildwood and is making good progress.''

Maximo Park added to Hop Farm line-up

ORGANISERS of this year's new-look Hop Farm Festival have confirmed a somewhat eclectic blend of acts to join the likes of Beach Boys' star Brian Wilson, James Blunt and Squeeze at the three-day event.

Under new promoters, after last year's event was scrapped, the latest acts to be added include ex-Soft Cell frontman Marc Almond, Cockney duo Chas 'n' Dave, rockers Maximo Park and folk act Bellowhead. Also added were The Beat and Scouting for Girls.

The event takes place in the grounds of the Paddock Wood tourist attraction over July 4-6.

Director of new promoters UK Events, Neil Butkeraitis, said he hopes to pull in some 20,000 fans for the first year.

Former promoter Vince Power attracted the likes of Prince, Morrissey, Neil Young and Bob Dylan to the festival before financial pressures crippled his company and it went bust - owing thousands to acts and local suppliers.

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agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

School places revealed to parents and pupils

PARENTS of Year 6 pupils will on Monday find out whether their child has secured a place at their preferred secondary school.

Thousands of families in Kent and Medway will receive notification by letter or email.

Parents were invited to pick schools, in order of preference, for their child for September's intake.

Last year, some 12,754 children in Kent – 84 per cent of applicants – were given their first choice.

It meant around 2,000 missed out on their first choice, instead receiving their second, third or even fourth preference.

Medway Council said this year 82 per cent have been offered their first preference place and nearly 96 per cent have been offered one of their listed places.



For more information about National Offer Day see www.kent.gov.uk or for Medway go to www.medway.gov.uk.

Train line finally reopens after landslip disruption

RAIL chiefs say work on clearing three collapsed sections of railway on the Hastings to Tonbridge line is on track to be completed by Monday.

Landslips at Stonegate, Whatlington and Battle in Sussex have meant a month of disruption for passengers on the line which takes in High Brooms and Tunbridge Wells.

Buses have replaced trains on a section of the route between Wadhurst and Battle.

After four weeks of round-the-clock working, Network Rail has repaired the slips so trains will be able to run along the whole length of the route from the start of service on Monday morning.

Services will initially run to an amended timetable.

...also

Apprentice winner visits

EVENTS will be taking place across Kent to mark National Apprenticeships Week.

In Medway on Monday, Lee McQueen, winner of BBC show The Apprentice, will be visiting MidKent College and in Swale, a series of apprenticeship events are being held. See www.apprenticships.org.uk

Talks over troubled trust

HEALTH chiefs at County Hall will on Friday discuss recent developments at the troubled Medway NHS Foundation Trust following the departure of its chief executive and chairman in January.

The trust was put in special measures last year as a result of a review into death rates.

Repair work starts on M2

RESURFACING work will take place on the M2 near Faversham from Monday with overnight carriageway closures in place.

Closures from 9pm-6am will be between junctions six and seven on the London-bound carriageway from March 3-16 and coastbound from March 17-30.

Cheaper crossing costs

DARTFORD residents will be rushing to take advantage of a new scheme enabling them to make unlimited trips through the Dartford Crossing for £20 a year.

For those making fewer trips it will be as little as £10 for 50 trips and 20p for crossings thereafter.

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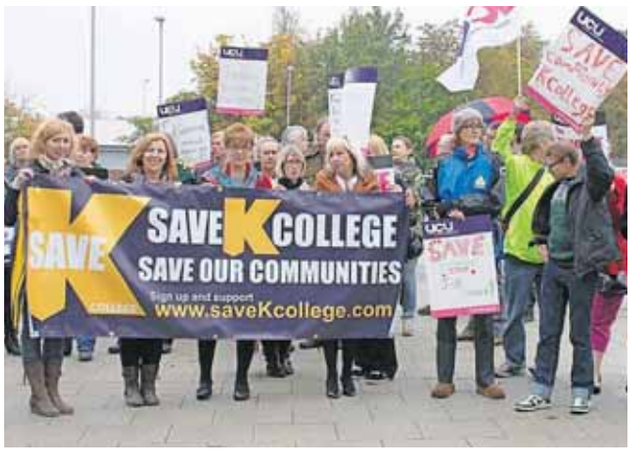
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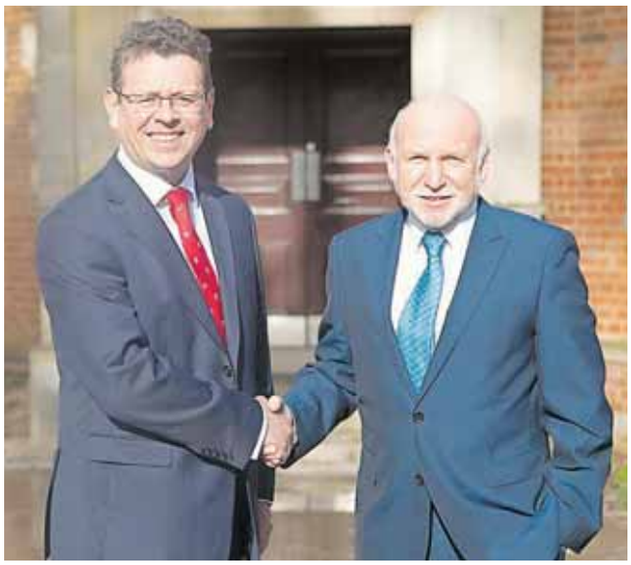
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NOT SO SPECIAL: K College has now been split in two again with Hadlow College (principal Paul Hannan pictured above with K's Phil Frier) taking over one part and East Kent College the other

From the ashes of doomed college emerges hope for next generation

It has been a remarkable week in the county's education sector as Hadlow College's clout is enhanced by taking over a big chunk of K College, while a secondary school is forced to shut in Canterbury. **Marijke Cox** reports on the drama

WHEN K College trumpeted its creation in 2010, it shouted from the rooftops about how it would set new standards for further education in the county.

Four years later, however, and as the smoke clears from its dramatic financial meltdown and restructuring of the last 18 months, we finally get to see how the wreckage of the doomed merger will be absorbed by other institutions.

And the good news is that, finally, the future provision of a host of vital courses – many of them vocational – appear to finally be falling into safe hands.

East Kent College – formerly Thanet College – had already been named as the preferred bidder for the sites in Folkestone and Dover, and now Hadlow College has been formally announced as the preferred option for Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Ashford.

Four colleges in Kent – Canterbury, East Kent, Hadlow and MidKent – were among eight overall hoping to step in and take over the stricken K College, which is to be broken up into two parts.

This latest announcement signals, hopefully, the beginning of the end of what has been a traumatic road for K College since it was formed in 2010 through the merger of South Kent College and West Kent College, becoming the biggest further education provider in the county.

It went into financial meltdown in 2012, running up a staggering £17m debt. The full extent of the losses caused redundancies and sent shockwaves across the county.

In Ashford, the impact was felt particularly hard. Having already sold its Jemmett Road site to developers, the financial crisis it found itself in meant K College was forced to pull the plug on ambitious schemes to rebuild buildings it owned in the very heart of the town centre, which would have created a learning hub.

Instead, it has been forced to delay moving out of its current site as talks continue over a possible alternative.

As the problems emerged, governors quit, the principal, Bill Fearon, resigned at the end of the 2012, and the Government's Skills Funding Agency was forced to parachute in a team to set about balancing the books and avoiding complete collapse.

Also brought in was the experienced Phil Frier as interim principal to guide it through a difficult period.

Perhaps little surprise, given the turmoil, an Ofsted report in December 2013 was less than glowing.

Unable to continue in its current form, the decision was taken to split the college into its coastal campuses (Folkestone and Dover) from its inland sites and seek new management.

It means the K College brand will soon be no more.

But there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel as the details of the restructuring are made public.

For Hadlow College, it is the latest remarkable step in its repositioning as one of the county's most significant education providers.

Based just outside Tonbridge, the college has existed as a centre of agricultural learning for years.

And its rural ethos was extended when it opened the Hadlow Rural Community School – a free school which promised land management lessons amid the National Curriculum.

Now it has perhaps its most ambitious task yet.

Hadlow College chiefs state the college campuses in Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Ashford will have their own identities.

Paul Hannan, principal of Hadlow College, said the ambition of the newly formed Hadlow College Group was to build on the individual brand and status of each campus.

Rated outstanding by Ofsted, Hadlow, which provides land-based studies, may just be the provider to inject some stability into K College.

"I think the reputation of Hadlow

PAGE 11 »

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will provide that level of confidence in people," vice principal Lynda Brown told KoS.

"We're proud of what Hadlow has achieved and people have seen the significant difference it can make for young people and education.

"We can be that stabilising factor for the colleges in Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Ashford."

She added: "Hadlow College will retain its identity and those campuses will have their own too. We'll retain land-based studies at Hadlow.

"We're taking over part of a general further education college and courses in subjects such as the arts, construction and hairdressing will continue to be delivered at those campuses.

"Some subjects such as landscape design and construction may be enhanced by our land-based curriculum but the colleges will retain their own identities, responding to local communities in the way they function.

"We look forward to working with the local communities, employers and students to deliver a bespoke curriculum that provides the high quality provision deserved by communities and students."

Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, director of finance and resources at Hadlow, said some of the work K College had done was very good and that this would be developed.

He also acknowledged some of the "excellent" staff.

Mr Lumsdon-Taylor stressed the college was now going through due diligence, which will take six months before the takeover is finally completed.

He stressed he was delighted Hadlow's "innovative educational and financial strategy to transform K College" had been accepted.

"It is our intention to create an exceptional brand identity and focus for learning and innovation.

"It' really important not to underestimate the wonderful opportunities this proposal embraces for west Kent and Ashford, for all students and staff."

Principal Paul Hannan added: "We now have six months' work before the new and enlarged Hadlow group is launched on August 1.

"Intensive work will now start – in cooperation with government funding bodies the Skills Funding Agency and Education Funding Agency – to arrive at a financial solution that will help us to deliver outstanding teaching and learning across the new Hadlow College Group in its entirety."

The latest acquisition is another boost to the education provider, which last year set up its own free school and the Royal Greenwich Equestrian Centre.

Ashford Borough Council welcomed Hadlow as the preferred bidder for the town's campus in what follows a shaky few years for the authority.

It had hoped for a redeveloped campus – the Ashford International Campus on Elwick Road – but K College slammed on the brakes amid financial troubles.

Last year, the council highlighted the Ashford International Campus as one of the key projects critical to the future economic growth and prosperity of the borough.

Leader of the council Gerry Clarkson said: "Our vision is for a vibrant college located on the Elwick Road site.

"Offering a mix of further and higher education, whilst addressing the specific needs of employers, both locally and further afield.

"This announcement means we are a step closer to realising this aspiration. The council stands ready to assist in every way possible to stamp this new college with the seal of excellence."

EKC set to take over coastal sites

EAST Kent College was named as the preferred bidder by K College to take over the running of its coastal sites last month.

The institution, formerly known as Thanet College, will take over both the Folkestone and Dover campuses.

K College principal Phil Frier said at the time: ''We were asked by the skills minister to find new providers for the college as soon as possible, so that students can benefit more quickly from the many improvements we have set in place over the past few months or year.

''This is the start of a new beginning for the students of our campuses in Folkestone and Dover, and I am sure they will enjoy becoming part of the high quality East Kent College.

''We made a commitment to students from the outset that no matter what name was given to their college, their education would continue, and we are proud to have delivered that.''

Principal of East Kent College Graham Razey said the announcement removed uncertainty for thousands of students in Dover, Shepway and east Kent.

Roots of college's failed marriage

CREATED through a then-celebrated merger of South Kent College and West Kent College, the new K College was to become the largest further education provider in the county.

The ambitious aim was to transform South Kent College's campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover following a damning Ofsted report. The college was also in debt to the tune of £11m.

West Kent College, it was hoped, would become the hero of the hour and turn the fortunes of its new partner around.

But what occurred was what has since been described as a ''perfect storm'' of problems which left K College with debts of some £17m.

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Skills Funding Agency and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) stepped in and the five sites – Ashford, Folkestone, Dover, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge –were to be divided up and new management teams moved in.

Fast forward and there are two colleges to run the divided campuses from the start of the academic year in September.



DWINDLING NUMBERS: A damning Ofsted report and falling pupil numbers are blamed for the closure

Parental choice and fall in funding blamed for Chaucer school's closure

HUNDREDS of parents with children at a troubled secondary school face an agonising wait to see where their child will be relocated after it was confirmed this week it would be shutting for good.

Kent County Council said Chaucer Technology School in Canterbury would close as a result of low admission numbers and subsequent funding problems.

Almost a year ago it had been put into special measures by school inspectors Ofsted.

It had been in the process of becoming an academy, with parents assured it was in "safe hands".

Now, however, those who attend the school face major disruption to their schooling.

Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will have to relocate to other schools in the area in September. Year 10 pupils will stay on for another year to finish their GCSE exams.

With many teachers expected to find new jobs before the closure, it is not yet known how many, if any, redundancies will be made.

The shock decision to close followed concerning admission figures for the September 2014 intake; just 26 families putting the school down as a first choice.

Even taking into account those who selected it as a second or third preference, this number would only have gone up to around 40 – significantly less than the 150-pupil admission number.

It highlighted a worrying pattern showing a dramatic drop in student numbers each year since 2010/11.

With schools given funding based on pupil numbers, it means the school has been receiving little money from government coffers.

Cabinet member for education at Kent County Council, Roger Gough, said the school, if remaining open, would have faced a deficit of some £600,000 next year, making it unsustainable to run.

He admitted parents would be "extremely unhappy" by the closure but stressed the only other alternative to closing the school would have been to dramatically cut back the curriculum and resources for pupils.

"It's been a difficult decision and one that has taken some time to arrive at," he said.

"If you go back three or four years, you'll see Chaucer had numbers of 1,200.

"That has dwindled at about a rate of 100 a year so there are 610 now.

"The school had lost momentum over the years. It was then placed in special measures in March last year.

"The problems that were emerging were manifesting themselves and Ofsted made it clear the situation was unacceptable."

But parents have accused the school of misleading them into thinking things were improving.

> **"The school had lost momentum over the years. It was placed in special measures in March last year. Ofsted made it clear this was unacceptable..."**
>
> **Roger Gough,** Kent County Council

An Ofsted report in November found the school was "making reasonable progress" towards being removed from special measures and recent GCSE league tables showed some 51 per cent of pupils had achieved the benchmark five GCSEs at A*-C including English and maths – much higher than many other non-selective schools in the county.

In a letter last year, Swale Academies Trust – which was managing the school ahead of its transfer to becoming an academy – also stressed improvements were being seen.

Trust principal Jon Whitcombe said last summer that the process of "rebuilding the excellent reputation the school once had" had begun.

"Several years ago Chaucer was the school of choice in Canterbury and it is my intention to help restore the school to its former glory as quickly as possible," he said.

He made changes to leadership and developed plans for the new term.

"I would hope that parents will feel reassured the school is now in safe and experienced hands with the necessary expertise to transform pupils' enjoyment of school and eventual educational outcomes," he added at the time.

But it seems his efforts were in vain.

Instead, parents received a letter last week from Patrick Leeson, corporate director of education, learning and skills at KCC, confirming the school would in fact close.

"The school has been doing well and making good improvements since the inadequate Ofsted inspection report a year ago," he said.

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ROGER GOUGH: 'Parental preference has an impact on schools'

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"However, the main reason for the decision to close the school is the very significant drop in pupil numbers reflecting a loss of parental confidence in the school.

"There is also a very serious budget deficit as a result of fewer pupils attending the school."

The problem with low admission numbers was made worse, education chiefs said, by a decision by the oversubscribed Canterbury Academy (formerly Canterbury High) to increase its intake for September 2014 by 50 places.

Cllr Gough said: "We expect parental preference to have an impact on schools and Canterbury Academy had every right to add places.

"KCC is the commissioner of education but academies are independent from KCC control. Academies can choose what they believe to be right for the school."

He admitted, however, it meant for KCC as the commissioner and local education authority, the system was now "more dynamic and difficult to manage".

He stressed it was with a "heavy heart" the decision was made and that KCC was committed to making sure children continued to get the best possible education.

A formal consultation into the closure started this week and a series of sessions for parents to attend are taking place in the coming weeks to discuss re-allocations.

Peter Read, an education consultant who runs Kent Independent Education Advice, said it was a "dreadful but inevitable" decision.

He questioned why, with such a dramatic drop in numbers in recent years, no-one seemed to have noticed what was going on.

"The answer I have heard too often in the past few days is 'complacency'.

"In 2010, Chaucer Technology School was by far the most popular non-selective school in Canterbury.

"Over the past four years, it is clear that families thought otherwise."

He added: "I do not underestimate the understandable bitterness and rightful anger of many students or their families who are affected.

"None of this is their fault, and they all now have the anxiety of whether or not they will get a decent education elsewhere in a school they never chose, but that is reasonably accessible and with an appropriate ethos."

REASONS FOR THE CLOSURE

IN the past three to four years, Chaucer Technology School suffered a huge and sudden drop in admission numbers.

From a popular school with around 1,200 pupils in 2010/11, now there are just 609 – a drop of more than 100 pupils a year.

Judged "inadequate" by Ofsted last year and placed in special measures, confidence was knocked even more and for the September 2014 intake just 26 families put the school as a first choice.

Cabinet member for education at KCC Roger Gough explains: "Two developments took place when we came into the new year.

"One, that Chaucer scored a low level of preferences.

"If you look at the school, numbers have dropped significantly over the last few years.

"Schools are funded per pupil and so it just wasn't viable.

"Looking into next year there would have been a deficit of £600,000."

He said despite recent improvements at the school, its future depended on being able to provide the resources that children need in the long term.

The school would have also struggled to provide teaching staff.

"With numbers dropping, the school is no longer viable – it does not have enough pupils to bring in the funding required to provide the resources needed."

He stressed the second problem came in the form of Canterbury Academy, which increased its September intake.

It means some of the pupils who previously would not have been able to get a place there and might, therefore, have gone to Chaucer, would get a place at the Canterbury Academy.

"Parental preference has an impact on schools," Cllr Gough added.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PLACES

PUPILS in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 will be offered a place at an alternative school.

Parents will receive letters with offers and the reallocation process will begin.

KCC's Roger Gough said families will have a say and stressed there are enough places in the district to cater for the additional need.

"We've been talking to all the schools who are looking at taking on pupils," he said.

"Some have more space.

"Parents will be given an allocation but there will be some option. I'm sure there will be a lot of concerned parents who will be extremely unhappy.

"For year 7, 8 and 9s it will be a significant disruption. We recognise that. What I would say is the alternative would have meant cutting back dramatically the curriculum and opportunities at Chaucer."

Pupils living more than three miles away from their allocated school will have help with transport and parents will be assisted with providing a school uniform.

Year 10 pupils will continue to be educated at Chaucer until September 2015 so they can complete their GCSEs.

Pupils currently in Year 11 and Year 12 will get help with finding places at school, in college or in work with training.

Education consultant Peter Read predicted that some parents of children in the younger years might start pulling them out of school now, if they can find alternative places.

"This will actually mean that the school may implode as class sizes shrink, and some staff look for alternative posts at their earliest opportunity," he said.

CHAUCER'S DECLINE – IN NUMBERS

Number of pupils in each year showing drop:

Year group	Number of pupils
Year 11	132
Year 10	159
Year 9	106
Year 8	77
Year 7	54

First choice preferences:

Year group	Number of first choices
2010	163
2011	115
2012	89
2013	58
2014	26

Preference figures: Kent Independent Education Advice

Former head teacher **Peter Read** runs Independent Education Advice. Here he gives his view on the issue and threats posed to some schools by declining admissions, in light of Chaucer's closure



THE announcement of the closure of Chaucer Technology School should come as no great surprise, given the dramatically falling number of students entering the school over the past few years, and the huge financial deficit allowed to develop.

However, there remains a threat to other secondary schools across the county.

The schools with the highest proportion of vacant places have remained the same over the past few years, leading one to ask how others can also remain viable, given that school incomes depend on the number of pupils they attract.

The Chaucer is the second closure in 12 months, with Walmer Science College being absorbed into Castle Community College last September, because of the falling number of children in the Deal district.

I do not anticipate they will be the last.

Concerns have been expressed about the number of young people coming to Kent from other European countries, causing pressure on school places, and also migrating from London for economic reasons, mainly to east Kent.

To my surprise, I was told through a Freedom of Information request that Kent does not collect figures on the immigration of children into our schools, or the national backgrounds of such children.

However, Medway's seven non-selective schools increased by just 47 students in total during the year, suggesting the problems are not as great as feared.

The schools with the highest proportion of vacant spaces in Year 7, all with over 60 per cent of their desks empty, are the same as last year except for Walmer. Oasis Academy Hextable is in the most worrying situation, with just 37 of its 150 places filled, the neighbouring Orchards Academy in Swanley appearing to be winning the battle for a shrinking pool of students.

Like most of the other schools at the bottom of the table, Hextable has failed an Ofsted and paid the price, families voting with their feet. However, one has to ask if the district can support both schools or, if like Deal, a merger would produce one stronger establishment even though this is unlikely, as they are run by two different academy chains?

Next comes the Marlowe Academy with 70 per cent vacancies; only a third of the intake of five years ago, and surely another non-viable school saved from closure by virtue of being an academy and out of KCC control.

The problems of the school were featured by KCC in its evidence to Parliament for an inquiry about academies.

High Weald Academy, the former Angley School in Cranbrook, continues to limp along.

It has been further hit this year along with a number of Tonbridge schools, by the opening of the new Hadlow Rural Community School, a free school focusing on rural issues, which had a projected intake of just 30 children in Year 7, but took 52.

Next up was Pent Valley School in Folkestone with 63 per cent vacancies which, in contrast, has a current 'good' Ofsted. It has suffered in numbers for years from competition with the neighbouring Folkestone Academy, but also loses out because of the remarkable success of school appeals at Folkestone School for Girls, taking around 70 previously non-selective girls, a figure nearly twice that of any other Kent school.

Not surprisingly, Chaucer Technology School comes next, its intake having fallen from 235 in 2008, to 54 this school year, and a projected 30 or so for entry in September. No way could it continue.

After Meopham School, another with a failed Ofsted, comes the Towers School in Ashford which has seen its intake fall by 51 children, the largest drop in Kent. This will be predominantly because of losses to the new Wye Free School, although all three Ashford non-selective schools have been hit.

Along with Hextable and Chaucer, the other biggest loser in intake for September 2013, is Ebbsfleet Academy.

The popularity of the third new free school, Trinity in Sevenoaks, explains the lowest intake at the nearby Knole Academy since it converted, with 41 vacancies.

While there are problems, the majority of Kent's secondary schools are sending out positive signals, such as this year's secondary Ofsted outcomes with 10 out of 12 reports being 'good' or 'outstanding' so far.

The school with the greatest increase in numbers in Kent, with a 46 per cent rise in admissions in the past year, is St George's CofE Comprehensive in Gravesend, placed in special measures five years ago, but now fully recovered under new leadership and 'good' Ofsted, showing that schools can and are being turned round, with the right measures being taken.

Next is the Community College, Whitstable, with its largest intake in five years, showing you do not need to be an academy to turn the corner.

■ **For more on Peter Read see www.kentadvice.co.uk.**

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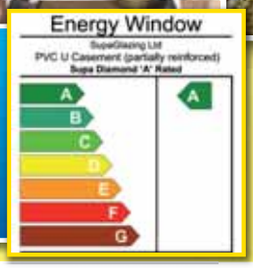
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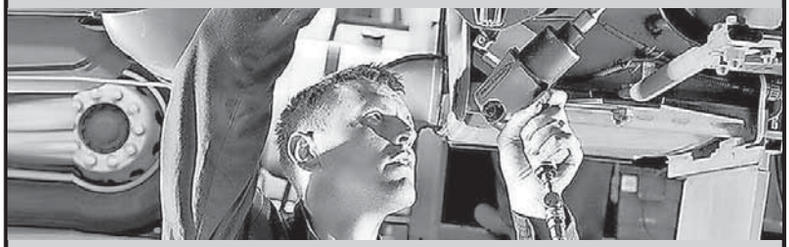
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RSPB wants your photographs of the Thames

'Grab a camera, go exploring and capture what this landscape means to you'

AT THE heart of the battleground for one of the most contentious developments this century lays a place which has, through its unusual beauty, provided inspiration for generations.

Charles Dickens is perhaps the most famous to fall under its spell; so enamoured was he with the swathes of marshland at the Thames Estuary it spurred him on to write his literary classic Great Expectations.

Yet it's not just Dickens who has felt the stirrings of inspiration from the unique landscape.

Since it became the focus of controversial proposals for a hub airport, others, including musicians Jools Holland and Dr Feelgood's Wilko Johnson, have expressed their love for the place through their art.

Stretching along north Kent, from Seasalter to Gravesend, past the Hoo Peninsula in Medway and the Isle of Sheppey in Swale, visitors are treated to atmospheric marshland and wetlands teeming with rare species.

Just along the coast, however, you're met with industrial heartlands.

It's this uniqueness which attracts people and has perhaps played one of the biggest parts in the campaign against a Thames Estuary airport.

Now, in a bid to see the estuary's beauty inspire others, charity the RSPB is launching a competition for budding photographers to capture its fragile habitat on camera.

"Rising sea levels, commercial shipping, intensive farming and heavy industry are just some of the daily threats faced by nature in the Greater Thames Marshes Nature Improvement Area," said an RSPB spokesman.

"Yet on the doorstep of one of the world's foremost waterways, lies over a thousand square kilometres of mudflats and marshland, home to some of Britain's rarest species such as the water vole and the marsh harrier."

The competition has four categories and the winning images will be displayed in a travelling exhibition across the Thames.

Stephanie Lawrence, the RSPB's community engagement officer, said: "The Thames Estuary is truly unique; one minute you can be engulfed in an industrial heartland, the next, sitting in solace looking across vast expanses of wild marshland.

"It's an incredible place for people and wildlife, and we'd love to see how you interact with it. Grab a camera, go exploring and capture what this landscape means to you."

The competition is now open and closes on April 22.

The RSPB is running the competition as part of the Greater Thames Marshes Nature Improvement Area project which is led by the Thames Estuary Partnership, Essex County Council, Greening the Gateway Kent and Medway and the Greater London Authority and supported by Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and Defra.

For more information about the photography competition see www.rspb.org.uk/futurescapes/greaterthames.

THE CATEGORIES…

■ **Wild about the Thames:** Photographs of animals taken within the wilds of the Greater Thames. The can consist of any natural place, from a garden or local park to an RSPB reserve. Images should seek to showcase the amazing wildlife of the Thames, creating a lasting impression. This could be a great close-up, showcasing new behaviour, or simply celebrating the spectacle of an estuary filled with returning migrant birds.

■ **Connecting Landscapes:** Photographs of striking views of the Greater Thames landscape which tell a story, everything from areas of natural beauty, to a landscape under threat from environmental change.

■ **My Place in the Picture:** Have you had a great day out with your family enjoying nature in the Greater Thames? Or perhaps you've done something amazing to help wildlife? Perhaps you know someone who has looked after this area their whole life? Capture this moment on camera.

■ **Young Photographer:** If you are aged 16 or under, this is the category for you – images of the wildlife, landscape and people in the Greater Thames.

■ **And don't forget you can send in your photographs from across the county for our weekly Images of Kent section.**

Running alongside the letters page, everyone who has their picture printed wins a free ferry crossing to France courtesy of our friends at MyFerryLink.

To find out how to enter, turn to the letters page in this weekend's edition.

Estuary, the unique area of mudflats and marshes that is home to some of country's rarest species









DIVERSE: The Thames Estuary can one day be beautiful and the next bleak, and it is home to some of Britain's rarest flora and fauna. For views or for wildlife, the estuary is quite simply unique



Good for our health to stay in EU

Green Party MEP for the south east, **Keith Taylor,** warns that growing pressure for the UK to opt out of the European Union would be an enormous blow both to the environment and our global stature



KENT is a beautiful part of the country. From the White Cliffs of Dover to the shingle beaches at Deal and the rolling hills of the Downs, the county is home to countless spots of natural beauty to enjoy.

What many people don't realise, and what many politicians don't want you to know, is the crucial role of European Union laws in protecting our prized environment.

Indeed, 80 per cent of all environmental legislation in the UK comes from the EU, and these laws play a huge part in ensuring our rivers are clean, our beaches are safe and our precious wildlife is protected.

In many ways, the EU is best set to create environmental laws, as the protection of our environment simply can't be left to individual countries acting alone.

All countries in the EU share seas and breathe the same air, and shared issues should be a shared responsibility.

Our rare birds don't need a passport to travel, the sewage spilt on beaches of France won't disappear when currents carry it to Kent and climate change simply cannot be tackled by any one country by itself.

It's not just in theory that the EU is the right body to create environmental law – it's been doing well in practice too.

Take, for example, the huge environmental and health issue of air pollution. In the UK, 27,000 people die every year as a result of the noxious gases in our air; without EU legislation this number would be far higher.

In the past few weeks, the EU has begun legal proceedings against our own government for its failure to take air pollution seriously, despite numerous opportunities to act.

As well as ensuring our air is breathable, the EU has also brought in forward-thinking policies which protect our precious seas and beaches.

The EU Bathing Water Directive has paved the way for a big improvement in the state of our beaches.

These clean beaches are more likely to attract tourists, boost local economies, and provide a haven for birds.

On top of laws protecting our physical environment, the EU has also produced legislation which, although not as strong as some of us might have liked, gives us a Continent-wide approach to tackling the most pressing issue of modern times; climate change.

With at least 11 per cent of global greenhouse gases coming from the EU, it is vital we work together to lower our emissions to have a fighting chance of avoiding the catastrophe of climate change.

The laws I've outlined above provide just a snapshot of some of the environmental protection the EU has afforded to us all.

Over the years, environmental legislation has often been opposed by the British government, and today Conservative and Ukip MEPs continue to try and undermine climate change proposals.

Thankfully, the EU is still offering protections and enforces measures which require us to clean up our act.

For me, the choice we face over our place in Europe comes down to one big question: How do we, as Britain, see ourselves in the world?

Do we want to be an isolated nation, cut off from our neighbours? Or do we want to work together with the countries nearest us to find solutions to our shared challenges, like protecting our environment?

The EU is far from perfect and much needs to be done to make it work better.

But a UK exit could be disastrous, not least for the future of our environment.

In the run-up to the European elections, Greens will be campaigning for a more democratic, less corporate-driven EU that puts the protection of our environment at its core.

If it's going to meet the challenges of the future, the EU must be more than just a marketplace.



Advertiser's Announcement

Apprenticeships – an alternative route to a new career

According to a recent survey by totaljobs.com*, two out of five graduates are still looking for work six months after completing their studies, leaving many of them asking if they made the right choice to follow an academic route instead of a vocational Apprenticeship.

With a 24% increase in the number of Apprenticeship vacancies posted online between August to October 2013**, Apprenticeships really do appear to be growing in popularity among both employers and young people.

An Apprenticeship programme is a great way to earn a salary, whilst studying towards a nationally recognised qualification.

Paul Emmett, 19, started his Bromley College Apprenticeship in Financial Services in January 2013.

"After exploring my options at degree level, I realised that an Apprenticeship would offer me even more opportunities," he says, "I've always wanted to work in the financial services industry and becoming an apprentice gave me a direct route into the sector."

"I've nearly completed my Apprenticeship - it has been great as I have learnt so much about the insurance market." he says, "I'm working towards my Chartered Insurance Institute Certificate (Cert CII) and I hope to progress on to the Diploma and continue my career with Belmont International. I'd recommend an Apprenticeship as it is such a great way to get vital work experience and study towards a qualification at the same time."

Bromley College of Further & Higher Education offers a range of Apprenticeships, and is holding an Apprenticeship & Traineeship Fair at their Bromley Campus on Thursday 6 March, between 4.30-7.30pm.

Come along if you'd like to find out more about Apprenticeships, meet local employers and get some expert careers and CV advice.

The find out more about the event, and to register your place, visit bromley.ac.uk.



Paul Emmett, 19, Financial Services Apprentice at Belmont International

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Federation chief warns of perils as police face onslaught

Facing funding cuts and with 'Plebgate' leaving the police's reputation in doubt, Kent Police Federation's Ian Pointon talks to **Joe Bill** about constant media scrutiny and the drop in officer numbers



CHIEF: Ian Pointon says his organisation is committed to, and welcomes, reform during challenging times

WHEN it comes to political footballs, crime and education are reigning champions in terms of being booted along the corridors of power at Westminster.

As a consequence, Home Secretary Theresa May and Education Secretary Michael Gove are perhaps second only to PM David Cameron in terms of profile, as they leap into the headlines on a near daily basis to demonstrate their 'keepy-uppy' skills.

After all, any society worth its salt will have the future generation and the safety of its community at the top of its list of priorities. As a consequence, the political parties know they need to be seen to be firm in their actions.

Teachers up and down the country will tell you just what an impact that desire to implement sometimes knee-jerk policy has on the morale and stability of staff.

Now our police force is feeling the impact of not so much a squeeze but a bear hug on spending, coupled with a slew of negative headlines which threatens to undermine the reputation of an organisation which is normally the envy of the world.

For Ian Pointon, the current chairman of the Kent Police Federation – the voice of the rank and file officer – it presents a whole host of challenges.

"It's definitely our turn," he explains, "teachers have been through it, other groups have, and now us."

But the federation is in a difficult position. Nicknamed the 'toothless tiger' it can growl but never bite due to legislation which prevents the police from ever walking out as part of any industrial dispute.

Yet just when the police could do with benefiting from public support as their numbers are slashed to balance budgets, they face a public relations crisis of their own.

The 'Plebgate' affair (see box) has left a deep stain on the character of the police – and brought the Police Federation itself under the spotlight.

As is so often the case, it is a few bad apples spoiling traditionally well-respected barrels. But it does, understandably, undermine the image of the police force and its reputation.

"Clearly, it's been a tough time for the federation," explains Mr Pointon at his office in Maidstone.

"But I think some of the criticism we have received has been hugely unfair. The federation is there to support the member.

"PC Keith Wallis [whose false witness statement initially forced the resignation of chief whip Andrew Mitchell and who later was found guilty of misconduct in public office and jailed for 12 months] did the wrong thing and he is paying the price for that now. Why he did what he did, I have no idea.

"But, ultimately, it is the role of the federation to support our members – often when they face people of huge influence and power – and we must continue to do that."

Following the 'Plebgate' scandal, the federation, which has 3,500 members in Kent, commissioned an independent review into its workings, led by former Home Office permanent secretary Sir David Normington.

Its findings were damning, calling for the federation to be reformed from 'top to bottom'.

Mr Pointon is in complete agreement.

"It's a structure that has been around for 100 years and it is due a refresh," he agrees. "But people shouldn't be under any illusion. This independent review was instigated by us, reported to us, and we've hidden nothing, it's warts and all."

The report made 36 recommendations for change to the organisation including a completely new "performance and standards" agreement outlining what is expected from each federation member.

The 48-year-old said: "We have shown our commitment to reform, and now the changes will come.

"There were some difficult messages in the report and they are something we have to embrace. We are up for the challenge of reform.

"On the other side of this I think we will be a stronger organisation."

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> **"People shouldn't be under any illusion. This independent review was instigated by us, reported to us, and we've hidden nothing, it's warts and all"**
>
> **Ian Pointon,**
> Kent Police Federation chairman

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Set up by the Government in 1919 following a series of police strikes, the federation acts as a representative to all staff up to the rank of chief inspector.

Mr Pointon has been Kent chairman for 12 years. He acts as the head of the county's members and regularly resolves disputes as well as working closely with the top tier of the force.

An officer for almost 30 years himself, Mr Pointon explained: "Sometimes people ask me 'what has the federation ever done for us?'.

"But you look at the safety equipment officers now carry. When I joined you had a truncheon and that was it. You didn't even get issued a pair of handcuffs.

"The equipment officers get now hasn't come through the benevolence of politicians and chief officers. It's because the federation pressured and pressured to protect its members properly."

> **"The equipment officers get now hasn't come through the benevolence of politicians and chief officers. It's because the federation pressured for it."**

Ian Pointon,
on ensuring officers are protected

Mr Pointon, who is married and lives in the county town, firmly believes the federation has played a key part in keeping the police force up to date and the envy of other nations.

"As quick as you knock it, people come from abroad to copy it.

"Others are envious of it, and that says something about policing in this country and people should remember that.

"One of the best things about this country is that police officers remain unarmed, which I think is hugely important.

"I'd hate to see every officer armed, it would frighten me.

"Officers still get assaulted and tragically some still lose their lives, but the fact we can still walk around in the 21st century in this country and are not routinely armed, I think is something to be proud of."

Cheshire-born Mr Pointon moved to Kent and joined the police force in 1984, working in Tunbridge Wells and Paddock Wood before joining Kent's all-action tactical team to execute search warrants and make arrests.

Having taken over the full time role of chairman of the federation in 2002, Mr Pointon has been re-elected every three years.

"It is a bit like a union, but we don't defend the indefensible. Quite often it's about having difficult conversations with officers and giving them a reality check.

"It's about being diplomatic to reach a resolution on something.

"We have a different type of action and pressure. There are plenty of police who would rather be out in the street dealing with a drunk than sitting in here telling an officer that their career is over. It is not a pleasant thing to do.

"Or when you have to go in and tell a chief constable 'I think you are wrong'. I don't think there are too many people who would swap with me for that either."

While facing cutbacks, the Coalition appears keen on dismantling the concept that being in the police is a so-called 'job for life' although just



'Plebgate' scandal explained...

AS Conservative MP Andrew Mitchell (pictured left) tightened his bicycle helmet, collected his bike and went to leave through the police-patrolled gates of Downing Street on September 19, 2012, he can barely have imagined just how things would turn out.

As he was ushered towards a side gate, it was claimed he called the police officer 'a pleb' in an irate rant over not being able to use the main gate.

He denied using the word 'pleb' - meaning one of lower social class - but apologised for some of the language he used.

But as pressure mounted, the national and Metropolitan police federations became embroiled in the row as they called on Mitchell to be sacked as chief whip.

The situation was exacerbated when PC Keith Wallis wrote a letter claiming to have witnessed the incident and confirming the inflammatory use of the word 'pleb'.

Under mounting political and public pressure, PM David Cameron told Mr Mitchell he had to step down. His career was in ruins.

However, PC Wallis was in fact off-duty and nowhere near Downing Street at the time, as was confirmed by CCTV evidence.

A meeting with police federation figures had also apparently seen Mr Mitchell refusing to explain what happened.

However, Mr Mitchell had taped the meeting and when he released the tapes it became apparent he had given a full version of events, and apologised for his language – but strenuously denied the use of the word 'pleb'.

After a major investigation, PC Wallis was arrested and charged in November 2013. He was later jailed for 12 months for misconduct in public office.



CUTS: Theresa May rejected calls for compulsory police redundancies



last month plans to introduce compulsory redundancies were rejected by Home Secretary Theresa May following a Police Arbitration Tribunal.

Currently, police officers cannot be made redundant. They can enter into voluntary redundancy but cuts to officer numbers are through natural wastage.

"It's a bit of mischief-making to try and support the notion of compulsory severance with the 'job for life' tag," says Mr Pointon.

"I was born in 1965 and lots of people had a job for life then. I am not so sure what's so wrong with that.

"It is always said as something particularly negative now and actually police officers don't have a job for life.

"There are officers that get sacked for breaching the standards of professional behaviour, we've had police officers sent to prison. We've had them sacked because they can't perform. So this notion that police officers can't be sacked is nonsense."

The removal of officers from their positions is one of the ways, Mr Pointon believes, the federation actually saves taxpayers' money.

"I have had to tell people that they ought to resign because they are unlikely to survive an internal misconduct hearing.

"We don't want to waste time and money with lawyers getting involved. Mr Learmonth [former Kent Police chief constable] would always say that the federation sacked more people than he did.

"We want to head things off before they go down the employment tribunal route."

When talking about modern day policing, the debate over continuing cuts to budgets is never too far away. And the chairman believes Kent's police chiefs have got some very difficult decisions to make in the coming months on how to spread their ever shrinking resources.



KEEPING US SAFE: The UK's police are a familiar and reassuring sight on our streets and the envy of other nations

"We know we have lost 500 officers and 700 police staff, with possibly another 150 officers to go at the next round of cuts," he reflects.

"So we know things are not going to get easier. But it's about trying to maintain that first class service to the people of Kent.

"The force is actively looking at how to reduce the demand on officers' time – like not going out to every scene of crime.

> **"One of the best ways to reduce crime is to target persistent offenders. If you get the evidence and prosecute them they can't commit crime..."**
>
> **Ian Pointon,**
> on tackling the core criminals

"Of course there are some crimes we will always go out to. If you have your house burgled or you are the victim of domestic violence, we are not going to deal with that over the phone.

"But some other crimes, well, don't be surprised if your car gets stolen off your drive overnight and the police don't turn up to look at an empty space.

"They may take those details over the phone because the most important thing is getting the car circulated nationally and reported as being stolen."

Focusing operations on specific areas and problem offenders is another way, Mr Pointon says, the police are looking to bring down crime levels.

"One of the best ways to reduce crime is to target persistent offenders. If you do that and disrupt their activities and make their life hell, get the evidence, prosecute them and put them in jail, then they can't commit crime."

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But will a decrease in officers equate to an increase in crime?

Mr Pointon is quick to point out that there are many other factors that affect crime rate including social and economic changes, but does accept that losing numbers will have an impact on the Kent force.

He said: "Though reducing crime isn't down solely to the number of police officers, I can't accept that the number of police officers doesn't have an impact.

"If it had no impact why would we bother having them?"

Visible policing remains high on the agenda, thereby appeasing most communities' common call for more 'bobbies on the beat'.

However, Mr Pointon believes a balance needs to be struck.

"I fully understand why the public loves it (visible policing)," he says, "I've been in places where you walk around and it is perhaps a busy time and people are drinking and you feel safer when police are around.

"But the difficulty is that policing is now so much more than being visible – as important as that is.

"This is not about opening a new box of police officers and saying 'lets have a few more over here'.

"It's about how we cut an ever shrinking cake."

He added: "Because your police officers are walking the beat they are not going to stop the online paedophile that is targeting children, for example.

"There has got to be a balance. To see more visible policing you will be taking them from somewhere else."

While the police's reputation has

Convert to 'focused' crime commissioner role



LINK: Police commissioner Ann Barnes



FAN: Ian Pointon of the Kent Police Federation

IAN Pointon was not overly enamoured with the idea of the Police and Crime Commissioner role when it was set up in November 2012, but he now believes that Ann Barnes has helped to forge a link between the police and Kent's residents.

He said: ''It's fair to say I'm a bit of a convert to the role of the PCC.

''I was very sceptical before it came in, but I do think it has made the accountability of the force far more focused because now it is through one individual.

''That role has also become more accessible to the public. Probably more people know who their PCC is as opposed to how many knew who the chair of the old Police Authority was. So the position is far more high profile.

''I think it is less bureaucratic as well.''

But the federation chairman believes the political nature of the commissioner role could become an issue when trying to maintain the ''operational independence of policing''.

''The trick is going to be separating the politics. I think that will always be something of a rub because PCCs get elected on a manifesto.

''They want to see what they promised to the public being introduced in the force and, of course, there tends to be an overlap there with the operational independence of chief constables. But hopefully they can work around that.''

There was a possibility that officers could have been upset after Mrs Barnes pushed for an independent report into the accuracy of crime recording last year after HMIC found Kent Police was inaccurately recording one in every 10 crimes. But Mr Pointon said the report has helped to kick-start a ''culture change'' in the force.

He explained: ''As the staff association, we very much identified the problem of officers being given numeric targets. Achieve so many

> **"It's fair to say I'm a bit of a convert to the PCC role. I was very sceptical before it came in, but I do think it has made the accountability of the force more focused because now it is through one individual."**
>
> **Ian Pointon,**
> on warming to the role of Ann Barnes

of this and so many of that. The force undertook to do a review and confirmed what we were being told anecdotally by officers.

''I have to say that I didn't think getting it right nine times out of 10 was a disaster.

''But that's now been improved on.''

However, he does believe the new systems put in place to record crimes more accurately may make the crime rate rise – at least in the beginning.

''Quite often, whether something is or isn't a crime can be quite a subjective test.

''One of the examples given was children playing football in the street and a wing mirror gets damaged on a car. I've got to say, if I was the officer attending, I wouldn't record that as a crime. I would say it was accidental.

''We've seen crime figures start to rise in Kent and we are predicting a rise by the end of the year. I do wonder how much of that will be down to the fact that we were inspected and now there is perhaps a propensity to over record.''

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remained steady over the years, controversies such as the handling of the Stephen Lawrence murder case and 'Plebgate' can deliver a strong dent.

"What really grieves officers is if one of them does something wrong, it appears in all the papers and is blown out of all proportion – and that incident seems to taint every officer," says Mr Pointon.

"Policing has taken a hammering over the last two or three years. There are not many days you can pick up a national newspaper and not find a bad news story involving the police.

"And it can be very, very unfairly spun.

"For example, when you read a headline and it talks about Tasers being used in a 'playground scuffle' it's easy to react in one way.

"But when you then read the article and realise there are three strapping teenagers involved, there are knives, and one teacher has been hospitalised, well, that sounds a bit more than a scuffle to me."

The chairman is also concerned at the damage this kind of media coverage will do to the police force when trying to attract new recruits in the future.

> **"I didn't join for the pay, it was something I wanted to do. When everybody is running away from danger, police officers head towards it..."**
>
> **Ian Pointon,** on the motivation of joining up

He explained that when he joined the force, becoming a policeman was a sought-after, respected profession. But he wonders if that perception is already starting to change.

"This doesn't mean that we shouldn't be open to criticism," he says, "but I fear now that the constant denigration of policing will have an impact on people wanting to join up in the future.

"I'm not saying it is going to have an immediate effect but we need to look at the effect this is going to have on the potential attractiveness of the job.

"I didn't join the police for the pay and the pension. It was something I wanted to do.

"When everybody is running away from danger, police officers head towards it and society will always need that.

"We need to make sure that in 10 to 15 years time we can still attract the right people in sufficient numbers to fill the vacancies.

"Because if we get the wrong people, because we are scraping the bottom of the barrel for recruits, then everybody is going to suffer as a consequence."

■ **What do you think of the issues impacting on Kent Police? Share your view. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

NEW CHIEF CONSTABLE OF KENT 'IS RIGHT MAN FOR JOB'

ALAN Pughsley took up the role of Kent Police's chief constable in January this year, taking over from Ian Learmonth. Having already served as a deputy and an assistant chief constable in Kent for the past five years, Mr Pughsley's appointment was heavily backed by Mr Pointon.

''I know him very well and worked with him in the past five years. He is definitely the right man for the job.

''He started a lot of the culture change and the way we do things in Kent. Leaving behind those numeric targets and actually focusing on a quality of service to the people of Kent. And that has got to be far better.

''The job isn't about 'how high can you stack them?'. It's about the quality of the work that you do for individual victims of crime. He has really bought into it and seen the benefits of that, and he is certainly the person to carry that work forward.''

The chairman of the local federation also believes the appointment will help officers focus on their work, because they will avoid the 'butterfly effect' of a chief constable coming into the force, changing things and then moving on.

Mr Pointon added: ''We were pleased when he got the job because it gave us some continuity.

''Quite often there can be nothing more unsettling than getting a completely new person in.

''Every new chief, even if they have been within the same force, comes with their own particular ideas. But when it is someone completely brand new, it can go off on something of a tangent. We knew we weren't going to get that with Mr Pughsley.

''He's been here for five years already and committed for another five years. So win, lose or draw on the changes we undergo, he's going to be here to take responsibility and, hopefully, it is going to be to his credit rather than blame.''



COMMITTED TO COUNTY: Kent's Chief Constable Alan Pughsley

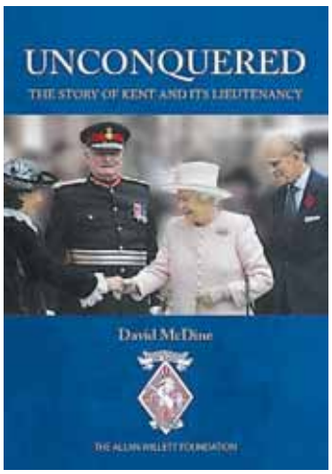






DEFENDER: Once the role of Lord Lieutenant involved defending the county but for Viscount De L'Isle it is now more about promoting it





The 500-year-old position once commanded our military might, but what does it mean today? **Marijke Cox** finds out

Lifting the lid on changing role of Lord Lieutenant

OF ALL the prestigious positions in the county, the one which leaves many scratching their heads in confusion is that of the Lord Lieutenant. So just what exactly is it, and what do they do?

Once in entire control of the county's militia, the role of the Lord Lieutenant has come a long way since its creation during the reign of Henry VIII, some 500 years ago.

Appointed, firstly, to take over military duties from the sheriff, by 1662 this responsibility had grown and Lord Lieutenants had the control of their own county's forces in their hands.

Lasting for more than 200 years, it was only with the passing of the Forces Act of 1871 that control was handed back to the Crown.

The role now is arguably a ceremonial one – and one which remains relatively unknown by the masses, despite its key function in history.

Instead, today, they are the Queen's representatives; so for Kent, the current Lord Lieutenant Viscount De L'Isle will be on hand during Royal visits, for example.

But there is more to the role than that, says David McDine, a retired Deputy Lieutenant of Kent.

"The lieutenancy is no longer responsible for the defence of the county, but the position has evolved," he said. "These days it's all about encouraging volunteering in the community, keeping alive the spirit of Kent.

"There is a mantra of the lieutenancy which is, 'the aim is to provide a focus for county identity, unity and pride, give a sense of stability, recognise achievements, success and excellence, and promote service to others'."

Mr McDine has spent years penning a book delving into the history of the lieutenancy in Kent. It is the first ever in-depth look at the lieutenancy, spanning from Tudor times to the present day, and includes hundreds of images.

Called Unconquered: The Story of Kent and its Lieutenancy, it is being launched on April 8 and published by The Allan Willett Foundation, a trust set up by former Lord Lieutenant Allan Willett, with the aim of donating money to good causes overseas and for opportunities for people living and working in the county.

"I wrote this book because it had never been done before in the UK," said Mr McDine.

"Kent is what we call the frontline county and so it has a more interesting history than other places. The lieutenancy was originally in charge of the defence of each county and so being so close to the continent, Kent has a particularly fascinating history."

Printed by Headley Brothers in Ashford, Mr McDine says the book uncovers colourful and exciting stories about a fascinating cast of characters, many of them military leaders responsible for trained bands and militias defending Kent from invasion.

Viscount De L'Isle said he was excited Kent was the first county in the UK to produce an in-depth history of the lieutenancy.

He and his wife Isobel visited Headley Brothers, which has been running for 133 years, to see the first pages off the press.

"It was a special experience to see the first copies of this pioneering book and I'm very grateful to Headley Brothers for all their hard work," he said. "I'm sure this book will interest anyone who wishes to find out more about our wonderful county."

Managing director of Headley Brothers, Roger Pitt, added: "We are thrilled to be working with the book's author and feel it only fitting that a book celebrating the fascinating and colourful history of the lieutenancy is produced for the people of Kent, by the people of Kent.

"As a long-standing member of the Kent business community, Headley Brothers has been delighted to provide its services for the production and distribution of Unconquered, an exceptional publication that celebrates our unique county by chronicling the rich history of the lieutenancy.

"We were honoured to welcome the Lord Lieutenant and his wife and all our staff were delighted to see them. I believe it is the first time in our 133-year history that a Lord Lieutenant has visited the firm."

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Tragedy on our beach kept quiet ahead of daring D-Day invasion

Rory Kehoe looks at a Second World War incident in Dymchurch which cost 22 soldiers their lives, without a bullet being fired from an enemy's gun.

ALL over the south of England in the first half of 1944, there was a great deal of military activity and troop training taking place.

It was all building towards D-Day and the start of the Allied invasion of Europe, codenamed Operation Overlord, which began with the Normandy landings of June 6.

One of the main fears in the minds of the Operation Overlord planners, was the threat posed by German heavy armour and in particular, the much-feared Tiger II tank, with its deadly 88mm turret-mounted gun.

To help counter this, selected Allied infantry units were trained in the use of a light bomb called the Hawkin's Anti-Tank Mine (HATM).

This device, which could be used separately or its impact enhanced by linking a number together, contained 0.45kg of the high explosive, ammonal, that was detonated by the weight of a vehicle rupturing an acid fuse, which then set off the main charge.

'Daisy chains' of multiple HATMs could be used, both to destroy tank tracks and to cause shrapnel injuries amongst the infantry which was shielded behind the armoured vehicles.

Much the same tactic is employed today against Nato personnel by Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Among the areas where the training took place were the beaches of Dymchurch.

On Monday, May 29, 1944, Lieutenant Guy Wilson led his platoon of 28 men out onto Dymchurch beach for live ordnance training on the HATM device.

Given the relatively volatile nature of these bombs, great care had to be exercised when setting them, particularly as there was the chance of sympathetic detonation triggering nearby devices.

Exactly what went wrong during Lt Wilson's demonstration is not fully known, but the effect of a single explosion appears to have initiated a 'daisy chain' detonation of all the other HATMs, including those in a nearby transport container.

The result was horrific.

Within a radius of about 100 metres shrapnel, shingle and other debris scythed through the assembled platoon, killing or fatally injuring Lt Wilson and 21 of his men and wounding another 15 Army personnel.

Lt Wilson and about half of the dead were buried, with full military honours, at Shorncliffe Garrison Cemetery; the remainder being accorded the same burial honours at their home parish churches.

At the inquest, the coroner, Major C F Crabbe, simply recorded 22 verdicts of accidental death.

A military inquiry was held soon afterwards, which proved somewhat inconclusive and which was, in any case, officially hushed up.

Bad news was felt to be not good for D-Day morale.

It was far from the only set-back experienced in the build up to the Allied assault on the German grip on Europe. Exactly one month before the Dymchurch accident, a much larger tragedy occurred at Slapton Sands, Devon.

Some 638 Americans were killed during a night exercise at sea, which went disastrously wrong, when German E-boats attacked the American landing craft and other ships.

This incident too, was quietly forgotten about until after the war ended, although there is now a suitable memorial for those gallant young men who died that night.

There is no such memorial to Lt Wilson and the 21 men of the 4th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry, who lost their lives on Dymchurch beach, just one week before D-Day.

For our tomorrow, they gave their today. Lest we forget.



READY: Preparations for D-Day landings saw huge amount of military activity along south coast

Three await sentencing after cannabis factory uncovered

THREE men have admitted drugs charges following the discovery of a cannabis factory in Sevenoaks.

Police uncovered 45 plants and substantial quantities of cash in a garage of a property in Old London Road, Badgers Mount, on November 17, 2012, after they were called to reports of a seriously ill woman who had taken cocaine.

The woman, Stacey McGuire, 37, was taken to hospital but died of multiple organ failure as a result of cocaine intoxication.

Her partner Stevie Murphy, 34, who lived at the property, was arrested after police found the cannabis plants and cash.

Checks of his bank and credit card accounts showed receipts of more than £126,000 during 2012, which he was unable to attribute to a legitimate source of income.

Gareth Morgan, 34, of Broadwater Gardens, Orpington, a cousin of Murphy, was also arrested and claimed sole responsibility for growing the plants.

He claimed Murphy was unaware of the cannabis factory and had simply given him permission to store clothes and other items there.

But Murphy's fingerprints were detected on a book in his house entitled The Cannabis Grow Bible – The Definitive Guide to Growing Marijuana.

Forensic tests on a cash-filled envelope then identified a further suspect, David Williams, 44, of Chevening Road, Sundridge.

A search of his home led to the discovery of cocaine with an estimated value of between £4,000 and £8,300, and two cannabis plants.

They will be sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on April 7.

Detective Constable Alastair Morgan said: "Whilst none of these men have been directly implicated in the death of Stacey McGuire this investigation is a tragic reminder of the potentially lethal consequences of using cocaine."

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Not all laughs for seaside town and its relationship with Carry On star

Chris Murphy takes a look at the career of screen star Charles Hawtrey following the anniversary of the actor's death 25 years ago, and recalls his own brush with the troubled comedy legend

LAST October marked the 25th anniversary of the death of one George Frederick Joffre Hartree – an event which passed with little fanfare or acts of remembrance.

Yet under his stage name of Charles Hawtrey, he became one of the nation's best-loved members of the Carry On team, the bespectacled, rake-thin, foppish character with the funny voice.

And for the last 20 years of his life he made his home in Kent, striking a somewhat eccentric figure in the sedate seaside town of Deal, given his penchant for alcohol, young men and extravagant clothing.

Yet despite his fame, his relationship with the town and its residents was strained at the best of times.

He moved to Deal in 1968, just four years before filming what was both his last Carry On – Carry On Abroad – and last ever movie.

His alcoholism was becoming a major problem for directors, and his attitude led to him being dropped from the regular cast after he failed to show up for a TV special, called Carry On Christmas, in a row over his billing.

He had the reputation of being an abusive loner when not in front of the camera, and became difficult to work with.

Actress Barbara Windsor told one author that Hawtrey felt the Carry On films were beneath him, although he constantly battled for more recognition and bigger parts.

Without the Carry On series, he quickly fell from public view taking to the panto stage and summer specials, where he lived off the wimpy character he had honed on the big screen.

His television, music and theatre appearances kept him busy until the late 1980s.

Forced to keep his homosexuality under wraps for much of his life, his increasingly eccentric and hostile attitude meant he made few, if any, proper friends.

A love of drink and a willingness to become ever more promiscuous, as attitudes in the country changed toward homosexuality, saw him flaunt his sexuality on Deal seafront.

He moved to 117 Middle Street in the late 1960s and some of his more raunchy escapades became public.

Among the more sedate tales from the time, fellow Carry On star Kenneth Williams spoke about Hawtrey's unusual and exceptionally large collection of brass bedsteads in his home. They were apparently part of his 'pension' and would be sold off one day to make a fortune.

Williams also told a story of Hawtrey's mother who suffered from dementia, but loved to smoke. During a house visit, her ash fell into her handbag setting it alight as the men chatted.

Calmly, Hawtrey simply poured a cup of tea on the small fire, clasped the bag closed and carried on talking.

His mother died in 1965 leaving him devastated. He sometimes continued to 'talk' to her while in his dressing room.

In August 1984, his house in Deal caught fire. It emerged he had been in bed with a teenage boy. Conflicting reports say a stray cigarette started the blaze, others that the lad in his bed was upset at not being rewarded for his services and started it deliberately.

Hawtrey was quoted as saying at the time: "It must have just got too heated in the bedroom."

He had to be rescued and carried down a ladder by a fireman.

His eventual death in 1988 was just as tragic as his later life.

Outside a local pub, he took a nasty fall that broke his leg and required him to go to hospital.

There it was found he had peripheral vascular disease that was brought on by a lifetime of heavy smoking. It had wrecked his arteries and Hawtrey was advised to have the leg removed to prolong his life.

Stubborn as ever, he refused saying he wanted to die with both boots on.

He died a month later. He was 73.

Local stories at the time said he hurled a vase at a nurse who had the temerity to ask for an autograph. It's said that was the last thing he did.

A cremation service was followed by his ashes being scattered in Mortlake Crematorium, London. Despite his fame, just nine mourners attended.

A plaque now hangs on the front of his former 18th century home. A fine sentiment, but not quite the way locals remember him.

As a young reporter in the late 1980s, I was sent to have a chat with Mr Hawtrey who told me to wait in the local pub for him. Over the next few hours he constantly phoned the pub – there were no mobiles then – and demanded to know what we would talk about in micro detail.

His phone calls became ever-more rambling and incoherent. Finally, he screamed a seemingly endless tirade of abuse down the phone and hung up. He never called back or answered his door. He was dead a few months later.

Former Radio 1 presenter Wes Butters is a Carry On expert, and wrote a Hawtrey book called Whatshisname, and also organised the plaque on the Deal house.

He confirmed locals "hated him" for his attitude of never signing autographs that was often accompanied with expletives. Hawtrey loved to call the locals "peasants". Taxi drivers were equally fed up with him regularly not paying for rides.

Mr Butters said: "We know many of the greats like Peter Sellers, Frankie Howerd, Kenneth Williams and Spike Milligan endured so many low points but Charles Hawtrey came out as the most tragic of all of them, because he never really had any proper career highs.

"I tend to consider him to be like a Sherpa, who helped the rest of the Carry On team to scale the mountain, and yet he merely goes along for the trip but never gets any deserved credit.

"By the end of it all, he ended up a bitter drunk who had exhausted his tally of proper friends with his shenanigans and become reclusive and tormented. It's a terribly tragic story.

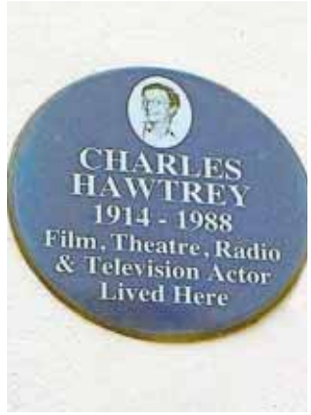
"He had always yearned to be the leading man. After all, Hawtrey had worked with directors like Michael Powell and Alfred Hitchcock and he wanted the respect they were getting.

"He couldn't recognise that he didn't have that potential because of the way he looked and sounded. But it blinded him to what he had achieved and turned him into a drunken, bitter bore, which is so sad considering he was so adorable and childlike on screen."









OOH I SAY: The house in Deal, pictured above, where Carry On actor Charles Hawtrey lived. He was a familiar and flamboyant, if not popular, figure in the town, referring to locals as 'peasants'



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Dockyard pictures: GRAHAM LONG









SUFFRAGETTE: Academy Award-winner Meryl Streep has been filming in Chatham where the historic dockyard has been dressed with fibre-glass buildings and the noteworthy food wagon

Oscar-winner Meryl is latest star to film at our historic dockyard

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

ACADEMY Award-winner Meryl Streep is the latest Hollywood star to shoot scenes for her upcoming movie in Medway.

The 64-year-old actress was at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, recording scenes for Suffragette, a film set at the turn of the 20th century charting the early activists who fought for a woman's right to vote.

Ms Streep plays iconic Emmeline Pankhurst, possibly the best-known of all the women's rights campaigners.

However, the role is a supporting one to that of English actress Carey Mulligan, star of The Great Gatsby and Oscar-nominated for An Education, who plays main the character Maud.

Directed by Sarah Gavron and due for release later this year, Suffragette follows their battles against the state.

The film was written by Abi Morgan, who also wrote the script for 2011's The Iron Lady for which Ms Streep won an Oscar for Best Actress.

It is understood the dockyard will be the backdrop to a key rally scene in which Pankhurst makes her historic speech.

The site is no stranger to playing a key role in TV and film productions, having already hosted a number of stars and major productions in recent years (see box).

Dockyard enthusiast Graham Long was able to see the set before the stars arrived.

He said: "As far as I know they were there filming for two days. It's quite exciting knowing our local heritage is hosting these blockbuster movies and that big name celebrities are in town.

"The set looked very authentic and in keeping with the existing buildings – even though a lot of it was fibre-glass imitation.

"I spotted one quirky bit too. One of the food wagons used had spelt 'saveloy' wrong.

"That'll get movie buffs flustered."

Suffragette also features Helena Bonham-Carter, Shameless star Anne-Marie Duff, Romola Garai and Gangs of New York star Brendan Gleeson.

Filming also took place in London.

70 YEARS OF MOVIE MAGIC CREATED IN MEDWAY

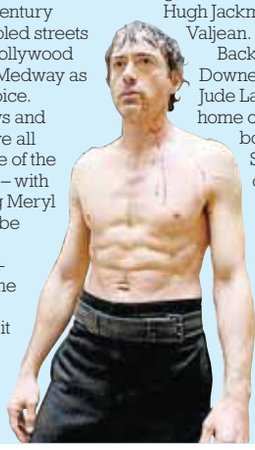
CHATHAM'S Historic Dockyard has become the go-to place for movie makers looking for a back drop to their period filming.

The growing reputation of the atmospheric 19th century buildings and cobbled streets has seen several Hollywood blockbusters pick Medway as their location of choice.

Movies, TV shows and documentaries have all made extensive use of the former naval base – with Suffragette starring Meryl Streep the latest to be shot there.

In 2012, the dockyard was used as the scenery in Les Miserables, where it was transformed into a French town.

Its ropery doubled as the police station where Insp Etienne Javet, played by Russell Crowe, is based, while the Tarred Yard Store was also used as the setting for a fight scene between Crowe and Hugh Jackman's character, Jean Valjean.



Back in 2011, Robert Downey Jnr, pictured, and Jude Law used the former home of the Royal Navy in both their big screen Sherlock Holmes outings.

And while 2013's Muppets Movie also shot scenes at the Chatham facility continuing this modern trend, the association with both the big and small screen actually stretches back more than 70 years.

The first reported use of the site was for the 1931 film Dracula, starring Bela Lugosi, although the exact usage has not been documented.

In 1963, comedy classic Carry On Jack, starring Kenneth Williams, used the site while the dockyard's church also doubled for the 18th century Houses of Parliament in the 2007 film Amazing Grace.

The waterfront was even the setting for a speedboat chase in the James Bond film The World is Not Enough in 1999.

On the small screen, the last series of BBC's Call The Midwife – set in the 1950s – made extensive use of its locations.

The Historic Dockyard has been hailed by film companies both for its open spaces and the ability to close the site off from star-spotting fans.

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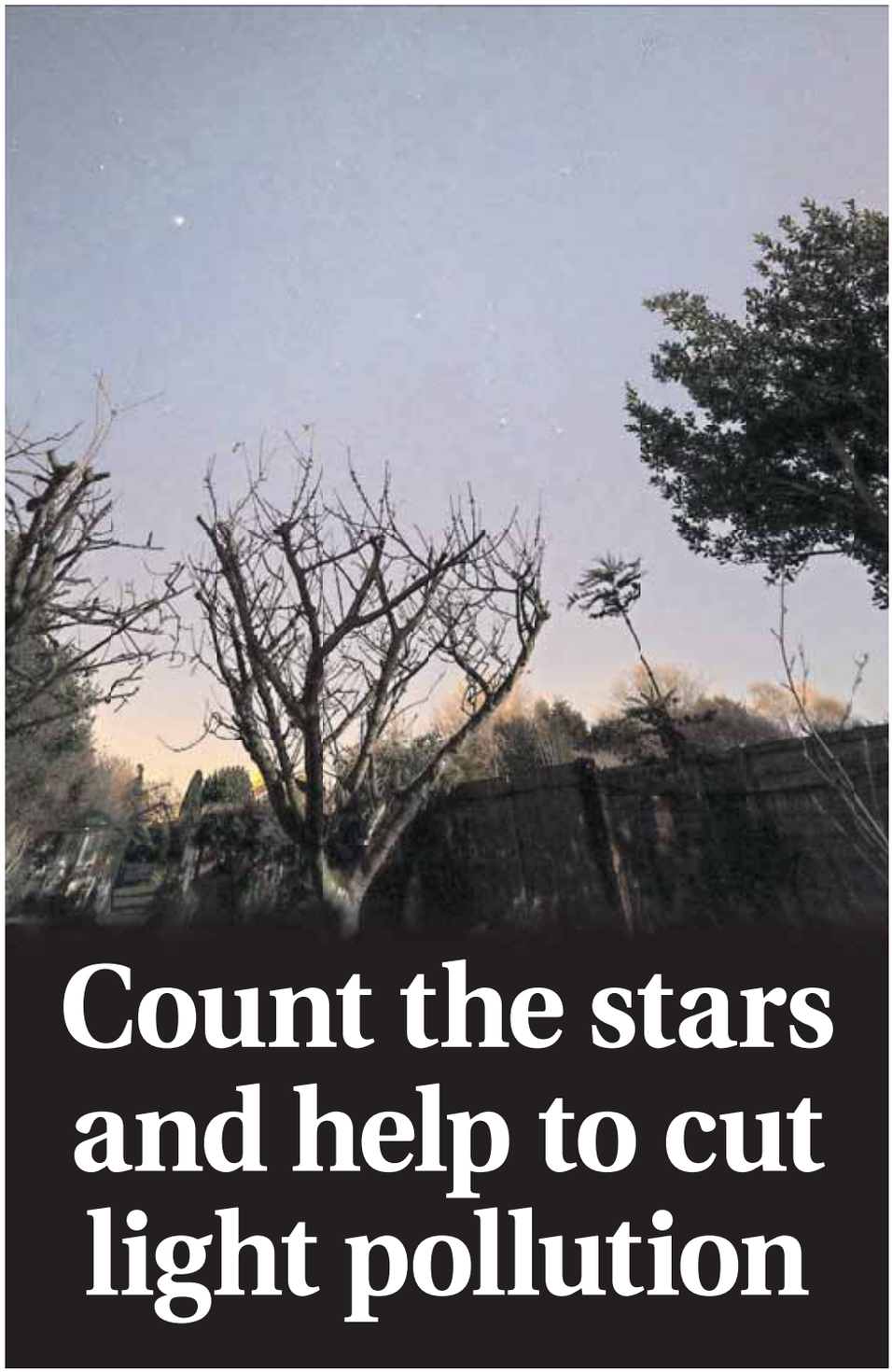
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Star Count 2014 needs your help as it looks to find the county's worst places for viewing the night skies in a bid to gather information to help battle light pollution, **Chris Murphy** finds out more...



Count the stars and help to cut light pollution

BEING able to look up at night to watch the stars track their way across a clear dark sky remains a thing of real wonder.

But over recent years there has been increasing concern over the amount of light leaking from our built-up areas and into the skies above us.

More often than not, as a consequence of blazing street lamps and housing estates, the orange glow obscures our sight of the heavens above.

Now, a new campaign has been launched amid findings which suggest Kent and the south east are experiencing more light pollution than ever before.

Spearheaded by the Campaign to Protect Rural England, the local branch of which is Protect Kent, and the British Astronomical Association, the Campaign for Dark Skies runs in partnership with National Astronomy Week.

It is calling on people to take part in Star Count 2014 – a survey to identify just where the worst hit places in the region are.

It is asking stargazers simply to count the number of stars they can see with the naked eye in the constellation of Orion any night between Wednesday, February 26, to Saturday, March 8.

Hilary Newport, director of Protect Kent, said: "The view of the night sky is something that links us with our really distant ancestors.

"It is such a treasured thing to lose.

"Light pollution is wasteful and usually unnecessary. It wastes a lot of energy and is so easy to put right.

"We have looked at light pollution over Kent in past decades and it is really noticeable with all the new developments how it has changed so dramatically."

Stargazers are convinced any crack down would make a significant difference.

Paul Andrew is the president of the South East Kent Astronomical Society. He lives in St Margaret's Bay, which once saw its skies badly affected by the Port of Dover next door.

He told us: "Any reduction in light pollution will be excellent news for anyone interested in the night skies.

"Light pollution is our bane really and it has over the years got worse and worse in the south east.

"It now interferes with a lot of people observing the skies. Dover docks have always been a real nightmare for us but they recently changed their lighting and it has made a big improvement."

Mr Andrew said those with floodlights on homes, those in charge of factories and councils looking after street lighting can all do their bit to reduce the glare, which is often simply wasted by poor beam direction.

He said: "Dover now has downward facing lights and the amount of sky glow has been reduced significantly.

"They have electricity bills to pay and what is the point of lighting the sky above the port?

"It is claimed you can cut your power bill by up to a third just by aiming the lights properly and perhaps change over to energy saving bulbs.

"It is such common sense.

"There are some really bad factories across Kent and it would make so much financial sense for the bosses there to cut their light pollution and consequently their energy costs.

"Some of them have huge floodlights and they are awful. Some can be so bright you can even see their glow on the horizon. Street lights can make a big difference as well."

He said they are aware of the cost impact of replacing lights, but he added: "I would sympathise with those that have to pay for new lighting, but I would urge everyone responsible to be sensible about what they replace their equipment with.

"Do consider light pollution and understand better aimed light will be cheaper to run due to less waste."

Adds Protect Kent's Hilary Newport: "It is clear how much of the night sky has been gradually eroded over Kent.

"Creeping development and some businesses with industrial strength security lighting have played their part in this."

Kent County Council recently announced it was planning to roll out a programme of switching off large areas of street lighting during part of the night to save money.

Dr Newport said: "We are absolutely supportive of initiatives like switching off street lighting between midnight and 5am."

She would also like to see some sort of clampdown on over-lit factories, "because all they do is cause glare".

Ian Hargraves, of the Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, said dark-night areas are now few and far between.

He said: "Certainly in the Medway towns light pollution is really bad and pretty much blocks out the entire night sky. And that is gradually progressing outwards from the centre, and it is very difficult to find a good dark-night spot in that area.

"There are pockets like Romney Marsh, but they are very few and far apart. The large towns like Medway, Maidstone and Dartford are all helping to blot out the night sky, along with over-lit main roads.

"You can see the large orange mushroom domes of light from the towns from almost anywhere in Kent."

And the new light-emitting diode bulbs that are being used are creating their own problems.

Mr Hargraves said: "Some of the more directional lights are using LED bulbs which are replacing the low pressure sodium lighting found in many street lamps.

"The LED's white light gives us major problems because it uses up the whole of the light spectrum.

"With the orange sodium bulbs, we can use special filters on telescopes to cut out the very specific wavelength these bulbs create.

"That means you can still see a fairly good wide spectrum of light from many of the distant objects in the universe which emit quite a lot of their light in the red area of the spectrum, which is right next to orange, which is where the sodium streetlights are.

"But the white light from LEDs has a flat spectrum right across the whole wavelength, which can't be blocked out using filters because you would be blocking out the starlight as well."

The CPRE said it needs skies clear of ambient light to boost participation in its Star Count 2014 census, which helps it identify the worst places for light pollution.

It said dark, star-filled skies are an essential part of the character of rural England, but last year 56 per cent of people who did the survey in the south east were able to spot fewer than 10 stars, indicating severe light pollution in the region.

Emma Marrington, CPRE dark skies campaigner, added: "The Star Count survey can help us build a picture of how light pollution is affecting views of the night sky in the south east of England.

"We'll use the results local people submit to persuade ministers and councils to reduce light pollution."

Robert Massey, from National Astronomy Week, added: "Too often our view of the night sky is compromised by the scourge of light pollution, so we're delighted to be supporting the CPRE Star Count and its campaign to tackle wasted light."

■ To take part in the survey, register at www.cpre.org.uk/starcount. No telescope or special equipment is required.

> **"The night sky links us with our distant ancestors. It's such a treasured thing to lose. Light pollution is wasteful and usually unnecessary."**
>
> **Hilary Newport,** Protect Kent director

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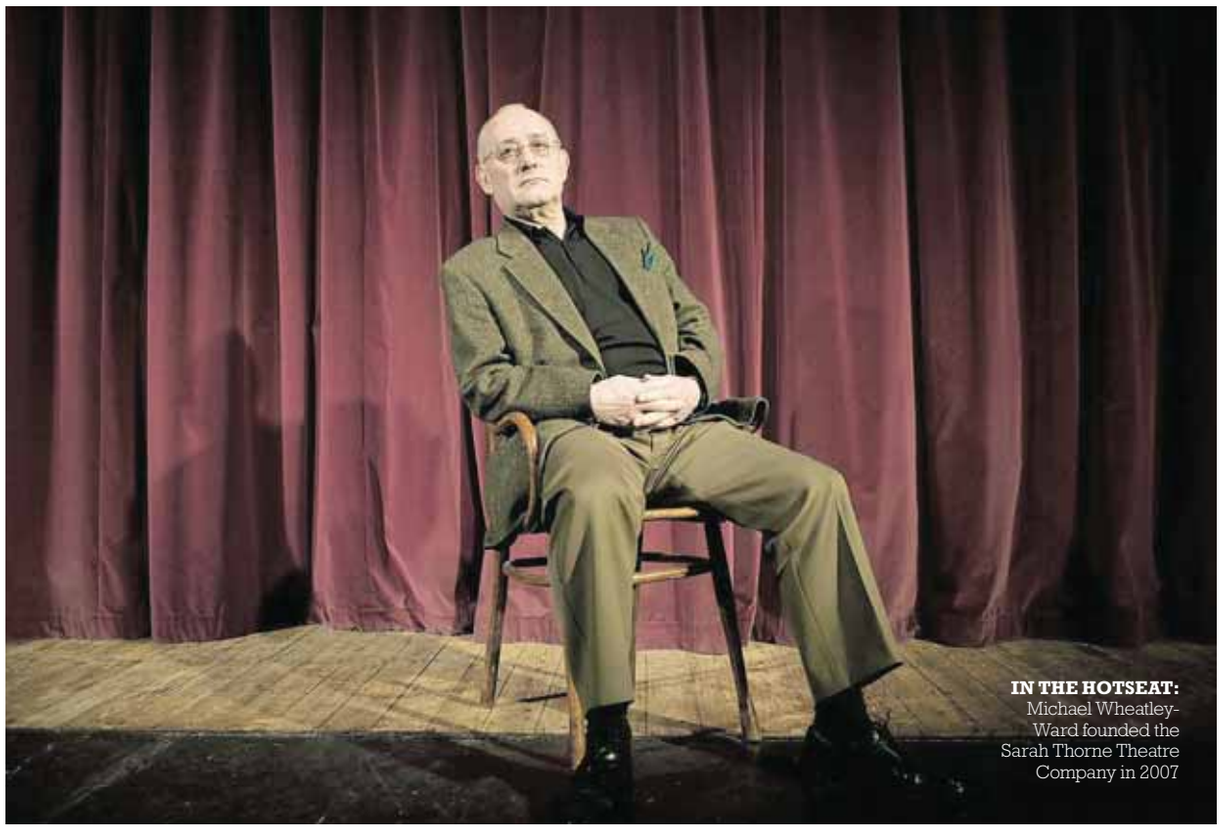
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Independence the key for flourishing theatre



IN THE HOTSEAT: Michael Wheatley-Ward founded the Sarah Thorne Theatre Company in 2007

Out of trying circumstances, Michael Wheatley-Ward developed the Sarah Thorne Theatre Company. He talks to **Greg Miles** about a real success story.

MICHAEL Wheatley-Ward had spent 19 years at the theatre he loved before leaving in what are best described as difficult circumstances.

However, he and a group of friends have flourished in creating a truly independent theatre company from scratch.

The Sarah Thorne Theatre Company, which he founded, is gearing up for its eighth season in Broadstairs and keeping its head above water while some larger venues are struggling in the notoriously challenging theatre environment.

It all started in 2007 when he and others were made redundant from Theatre Royal Margate, where he was general manager.

The theatre was bought by Thanet District Council and leased back to Margate Theatre Royal Trust after closing for five months; it reopened with new staff.

There was no time for self-pity as Wheatley-Ward started on his new venture within a matter of weeks.

First came the venue, the Memorial Theatre, tucked away in a residential street not far from the centre of Broadstairs.

"I thought I'm in my mid-50s, I'm still a producer and I'm not going to give up," he said. "I looked at various places and someone suggested here.

> **"The theatre is not subsidised, although we do have grants for one-off events. We're not affected by the cuts at all"**

"I asked why it wasn't used and they said it was used until the Arts Council started funding it and audiences dropped because of the programming. That was a red rag to a bull.

"Once we finished at the Theatre Royal I thought I'm not sitting around twiddling my thumbs. I wanted to stay local and figured out how I could do it. It was within two weeks."

Having been in the business all his life, it was a smooth transition from managing a theatre to starting up his own from nothing. And of course he had all the right contacts to make it a success.

"I had some mates who had some shows at the Theatre Royal but weren't going back and asked if they could put them on here," he said. "We've largely been together ever since.

"It has grown like Topsy. The first season went very well and then a summer season. Three years ago I brought in traditional pantomime. We're now 52 weeks a year.

"We got a lot of press from leaving the Theatre Royal and they all came here. We had an instant audience."

Wheatley-Ward also had to think of a name to give his new enterprise and it came with inspiration from his old workplace.

Sarah Thorne was an actress and theatre manager in the Victorian era and managed the Theatre Royal from 1867 on several occasions. She played a leading role in theatre around the area, opening an acting school. She died in Chatham on February 27, 1899, aged 63.

Despite that link with the Theatre Royal, Wheatley-Ward was keen to go down a different path rather than attempt to challenge his old employers.

"We made a policy not to conflict with the Theatre Royal. We decided we would just keep it to a Broadstairs audience," he said.

"The success story is because of the free parking in the area and railway station. We keep the prices low in the bar and we've been able to keep it as a good business.

"The theatre is not subsidised, although we do have grants for one-off events. We're not affected by the cuts at all – we're making a small profit and growing all the time."

Continued on page 38 »

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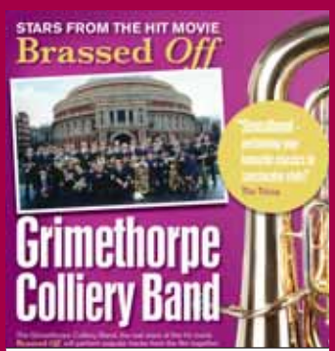
The Little Mermaid – Ballet Theatre UK
Sunday 16 March



New Jersey Nights
Monday 17 – Wednesday 19 March



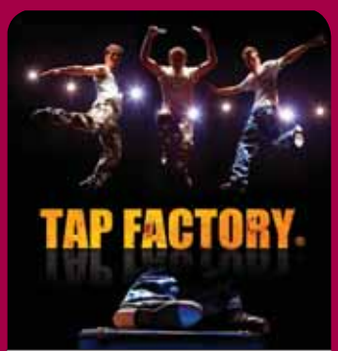
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ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Guys just wanna have fun as hilarious West End hit show goes on tour



■ *Coming to Kent - more hits than you can bat an oversized pair of lashes at, its Viva la Drag!*

Kent venues welcome all-new "dragtacular"

By Gary Mac

DIRECTED BY Kylie Minogue's creative director, featuring songs especially composed by Boy George, the latest hit show from London's West End – Viva la Drag! – has announced a string of dates locally.

Described by show producer Michael Taylor as "the ultimate girls' night out – with added extras" and "a real dragtacular", a rollicking night of cross-dressing comedy and musical theatre is promised.

Classic hits are combined with today's chart toppers: Single Ladies, Stop in the Name of Love, Car Wash, Get Lucky, Rolling in the Deep, Jolene, Crazy in Love, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and more feature.

The show plays the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, 29 March, and Dartford's Orchard Theatre on Thursday, April 10 - both shows featuring Sam Buttery of TV's The Voice - and then The Marlowe, Canterbury, on Saturday, June 14.

Tickets for the costumes-to-die for extravaganza from the box offices in the ad below.

Alan Carr and the Viva la Drag stars



THE Chatty Man shared the stage with the stars of Viva la Drag! at a charity show in aid of the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

TV comedian Alan Carr cosied up to the cast of the hit stage show – which features at three Kent venues in the coming weeks – when they appeared at the fund-raising spectacular at London's famous Roof Gardens.

Stand-up comedian and star of Channel 4's flagship talk show Chatty Man, Alan Carr was gushing with praise after catching their performance.

"Everyone is buzzing after seeing them," he said during their appearance before a well-heeled crowd at the £1,500-a-table event.

Stars of Viva la Drag – close-harmony all-male, girl group The Supreme Fabulettes – are taking the West End hit show on a nationwide tour See advert below for Kent dates and details.



« Continued from page 35

The freedom to programme what you want is not to be underestimated, says Wheatley-Ward. "The trick today is not to be in the hands of the Arts Council and their funding. That is fatal. They dictate what you're going to put on," he said.

"A theatre that doesn't bother with the locals is finished. A lot of these arty people think bringing shows down from London will work, but it will kill it stone-dead.

"I think we're doing it the correct way and I do listen to my partners. If shows don't work, we don't bring them back."

There has been a change in the way that shows get from the ideas pages of producers to the stage, though, and it could end up with links being created with theatres around the country.

"If we were to start doing our own shows more than we do now, we would have to find the capital for it," he said. "The number of commercial producers has dropped off 50 per cent.

"They were reliant on people paying them to put shows on and they're not doing it now.

"We may have to do more in-house productions because the touring theatre companies aren't there any more. We may have to link up with other theatres and do our own touring productions."

Having such a versatile venue means that Wheatley-Ward can cater for a wide range of tastes.

"The thing I discovered was that I'd only been used to ordinary auditoriums. The beauty of this place is you've got a flat floor like a village hall – you can have table seating or standard seating," he said.

"I can put on folk dances and a myriad of entertainment other than standard theatre. Outside London and other big cities, you cannot keep going at these bigger auditoriums without subsidy."

The 64-year-old started out in the industry after a fellow pupil paid him a compliment during a production.

"I used to do stage lighting at school and I had puppet theatres," he said. "One of the lads at school asked me a technical question and I answered it and he said 'You're very good at this sort of thing – you should do it for a living'. I thought what a good idea."

He has always been more at home behind the scenes rather than treading the boards and was encouraged by his parents into the profession.

"I only ever acted in front of the bank manager when I needed money," he said. "Some people think I'm an actor, but I'm not. I did enjoy working the queues, though.

"My father and mother both liked the theatre and I found out later that my grandfather built cinemas in Birmingham.

"My father was very well educated and self-taught. He was a scientist in reserve occupation in the war. He didn't stop me doing what I wanted."







FROM SCRATCH: The theatre started in 2007 after Wheatley-Ward left Theatre Royal Margate, bottom right, when it closed before later reopening

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From the marines to ballet in one step

He hated dance at school and looked set for a life in the army but Matthew Rees now stars on the stage in ballet. He talks to **Greg Miles** about his story.



BALLETBOY: Matthew Rees, far right, will be taking to the stage at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, later this month

FORMER Hythe schoolboy Matthew Rees has proven that anything is possible after going from potential Royal Marine to starring in ballet.

The 23-year-old who was a pupil at Brockhill Park School went as far as having interviews to join the military elite.

However, a chance audition to pass the time while he waited brought about a new career.

Five years down the line he is a regular fixture in the touring BalletBoyz productions headed by former Royal Ballet stars Michael Nunn and Billy Trevitt.

This week he will be appearing with the group at The Orchard Theatre in Dartford.

The show features dance pieces by internationally-celebrated choreographers Russell Maliphant and Liam Scarlett.

It is quite the reversal of fortunes for Rees, who as a young teenager hated compulsory dance lessons at school and later did not go to a drama school or university after passing auditions for BalletBoyz.

"I'm not the usual story," he said.

"From year 7 onwards it was compulsory. For the first two or three years I hated it. I was at the back of the class and would get sent out all the time for being naughty.

"I did get into it, though, in year 11 through doing the cool stuff like backflips. I was really into my music and learnt to play the saxophone."

But his interest in performance took a back seat as he prepared to join the army.

"When I got to year 13 I was interested in the army and marines," he said. "That's where I was heading.

"I was always fascinated by it and knew someone in the marines. I like the idea of that lifestyle, I don't know why when I think of it now.

"I went for a few meetings and was applying. I was getting fit for all the tests and then this came along."

The change in direction came about when he entered Youth Dance England with friends at the Southbank Centre in London. That was where his heroes Nunn and Trevitt were watching.

"We went up to them and gave them our phone numbers and they said they would call us," said Rees, who was 17 at the time. "We thought that would be the end of it.

"Before we had even got back to the train station they had called us about when we were free to come to the studio.

"I didn't think anything along these lines would happen."

Rees then passed an audition to join the BalletBoyz and has not looked back since.

Fortunately, Nunn and Trevitt were more interested in what he was able to do rather than what he said he could do on paper.

"They don't look for people that have gone to schools or got bits of paper," said Rees. "They look for what you can do. I know a lot of other companies where if your CV doesn't jump out at them they won't give you a second look."

■ **BalletBoyz are at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on Monday, March 10, at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced from £12-£24.50. To book, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or phone 01322 220000.**

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Ban social media to stop problems

I THINK all social media and electronic messaging should be banned because of all the social problems they cause.

In this country we have such problems; cyber bullying and vile explicit text messages amongst the most disturbing aspects.

Our great language has been defiled by the awful grotesqueness of social media, which has made many lazy about writing good English and harming the way they use it.

This is why this very damaging stranglehold of the internet must be broken... and soon.

Rosie Johnson, Igtham

Van man knows no speed limits

SINCE moving from Bexley to Sittingbourne last April, in pursuit of a quieter quality of life away from the rat race of London, I have been truly amazed at the behaviour of some motorists as I travel up the M2 and M20 for work, several times a week.

It amazes me the speed some impatient motorists – often those in vans – travel at.

They seem to think 70-90mph is quite normal, roaring up the back of anyone in their way.

They are dangerous, ruthless and some are aggressive.

Fog and rain doesn't seem to slow them down at all, and so many cars and vans with deficient lights too.

These hooligans are a real danger to themselves and other road users who just want a steady drive to work.

Why do these people risk themselves and others? And for what?

As a motorcyclist as well, I am horrified at so many car drivers I often see using their mobile phones while at the wheel. Don't they listen to all the warnings?

Jim Porter, Sittingbourne

There is no case filled with euros

MR Arnold (KoS 16/02) thinks "it would be a nice gesture" if the EU were to provide financial help to Britain to repair the damage caused by recent and current flooding.

It would indeed be a nice gesture but, contrary to what Mr Arnold and Ukip may think, the EU does not send somebody out with a briefcase stuffed full of euros every time a member state suffers a natural disaster.

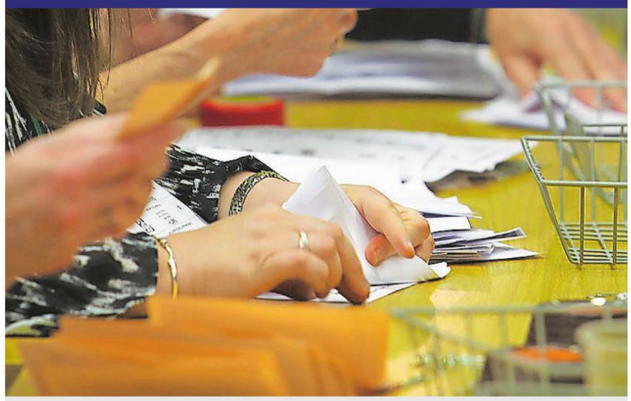
That would be an excessive interference in the internal affairs of the member state. It is down to the member state in question to make its case and to ask the EU for help.

Whether the current Conservative-led government would want to swallow its ideological pride and make the case to the EU is an open question.

And if it did, Mr Cameron's claim that "money is no object" has been positively unhelpful to the unfortunate people who have had their homes and businesses ruined.

Mike Eddy, Kent county councillor (Labour) for Deal and Walmer/ Dover district councillor for Mill Hill

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Incentive should be civic duty not money

I HAVE been following with a degree of interest the call for the executive system of local government to revert to the old committee system.

I have to say that, from my experience, this is not the answer.

The reality is whichever political party has the majority on the council ends up with a majority on each committee, and whilst occasionally you may get one or two within the controlling group expressing an alternative view, at the end of the day they all do as they are told.

Most people now agree that the political system, not just locally but in the country generally, is not representative and does need radical change.

Reforms could so easily be implemented but firstly it would need the silent majority to play their part.

In my view, we could start by having a directly-elected leader, which means that any person who felt they wanted to and could do this job, could put himself or herself up for election without being a member of a political party.

Ideally, we should take mainstream politics out of local government.

I would like to see a Herne Bay and District Council and a Whitstable and District Council made up of residents and associated members, with the same for Canterbury City Council.

We need to return to the days when councillors served as a civic duty, not for the money or the fact they are members of a political party.

I fail to understand why we pay professional officers large salaries to run our councils and then pay councillors to vote through what the officers have decided.

The only councillors to be paid should be a directly-elected leader and an allowance for the mayor.

Let's remember there are a great many residents that run clubs and organisations giving up their time just to serve the community.

Mike Tibby, Herne Bay

Council tax cuts for flood victims

THIS winter has been bad for the UK, but truly heartbreaking for those who have had their homes inundated.

Furthermore, many flood victims remain unaware they are entitled to apply for a discretionary reduction on their council tax bills.

Applications for a discretionary reduction must be made in writing to the local authority by the council tax payer for the property affected by flooding or storm damage.

A reduction is not automatic, but is at the discretion of the authority.

However, the law expects all applications to be considered fairly and determined within eight weeks.

There is a right of appeal if a reduction is unreasonably refused.

Alan Murdie, barrister, Benefits Legal Group

Alexander not so great on Europe

CHIEF secretary to the Treasury, Liberal Democrat Danny Alexander, needs to tell a few truths about our trading relationships with the EU (KoS, last week).

A few years ago, a reliable report from the Institute of Directors, I believe, stated most of our exports leave here by sea, and as the ships call at Antwerp and Rotterdam, the EU cheats and pretends they are EU-bound when in fact 60 per cent go beyond to the wider world and only 40 per cent to the EU.

He doesn't mention the financially crippling tens of billions of pounds sterling it costs all British businesses yearly to implement Brussels' unnecessary red tape and bureaucracy.

Some jobs may rely on exports to the EU, but that is nothing new, we've traded with Europe for centuries.

He doesn't talk about the hundreds of thousands of jobs in manufacturing, the car industry (Citroën, Peugeot and Ford), the clothing industry, foods and confectionary (Cadbury's) that have been lost to cheap labour markets of eastern Europe, and will continue to do so.

Money from British taxpayers supports jobs and job creation across Europe, in eastern Europe especially.

And our money is wasted paying the lavish lifestyle, wages, pensions and perks of more than seven hundred members of the European Parliament, most of whom we've never heard of.

People like Danny Alexander always paint a rosy picture of Europe and never tell the real story.

Don't be fooled by dangerous euro mad dreamers who will stop at nothing to give our nation away.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

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2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

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Sandgate beach

by **Freddie Lee Thompson** from Folkestone

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business



Fashion boss has sights set on the global market

Tunbridge Wells-based model-turned-businesswoman Lucie Brassington tells **Joe Bill** about her goal to launch a new worldwide designer label

FORMER model Lucie Brassington has proved she's far more than just a pretty face after her lingerie business secured a deal with one of the biggest retail names.

The businesswoman from Tunbridge Wells launched her glamorous firm two years ago, offering a range of underwear and make-up under the Miss Photogenic brand.

Already stocked in more than 30 branches of John Lewis, it has now received a further boost after Fenwick agreed a deal too.

It's proved a hit and now discussions are under way at expanding the stores involved – including a little closer to home.

The 26-year-old explained: "We now sell to the Brent Cross Fenwick store but are in discussion over stocking the range in all the other Fenwick stores including Canterbury.

"We are really thrilled to be selling the beauty side of the brand in Fenwick. Being a new premium brand and designer label we felt Fenwick was a perfect choice to launch our cosmetic brush range."

The designer has been involved in the fashion industry since she was 16. Today, based in the spa town, she creates her designs for ranges which include lingerie, swimwear and a host of accessories.

The strategy now is to build on these firm foundations and increase the brand's reach and clout.

She said: "We have a very detailed growth plan for the brand for the coming years.

"A lot of background work has been done prior to the launch to enable me to take the brand to an international scale."

But in these economically unstable times, starting your own business can be risky – especially if you haven't had a bank loan or got onboard one of the Government's popular start-up business loan schemes.

She said: "I launched entirely off my own back. Starting your own business in any area of an industry is always a challenge. It requires a huge amount of dedication, self motivation and a strong self-belief for what you are aiming to achieve.

"You have to stay set on your goals and be prepared to never give up and ride out obstacles as they come along. It is not an easy proc-



DRIVEN: Businesswoman Lucie Brassington has big plans

Continued on page 45 »

If you have a business story, we would like to hear from you. Telephone on **01303 817100** or email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

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Training, courses & careers

Turbines blowing in chance to secure a £3,000 uni bursary

STUDENTS from the Faversham, Canterbury and Whitstable areas are being invited to apply for a three-year grant to support their university education.

Funded by London Array, the £3,000 a year bursary is open to people wanting to study subjects linked to science, engineering or sustainable development and who attend school or live within 15 miles of the parish of Graveney with Goodnestone.

London Array is the world's largest off-shore wind farm, sited off the coast of Thanet and officially opened last year by Prime Minister David Cameron.

The grant is available to students planning to start university this September and is part of the agreement with the local community following the installation of the electricity substation at Cleve Hill, near Graveney.

Charlotte Prett of London Array explained: ''Students are asked to fill out an application form and provide an example of work to show why the bursary should be given to them. Shortlisted candidates are then invited for interview.''

The deadline for entries is June 26, with interviews taking place during the summer and the successful applicant nominated in time for their course to start this September.



OPPORTUNITY: Students urged to apply to benefit for cash boost

Miss Prett added: ''This will be the fifth year of our university bursary scheme and we are always impressed by the high standard of applicants and their commitment to sustainable development.''

Launched in 2010 in partnership with Kent County Council, the bursary scheme has so far supported four students in their learning.

The most recent was Charlotte Dobson from Canterbury, a former Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School pupil, who is now studying geography at Bristol University.

To apply: www.londonarray.com/community/bursary-scheme

Fair to celebrate apprenticeships

BROMLEY College will be holding an Apprenticeship & Traineeship Fair on Thursday, March 6, between 4.30-7.30pm.

The event is part of the seventh annual National Apprenticeship Week which gets under way on Monday. The week is designed to celebrate apprenticeships and the positive impact they have on individuals, businesses and the economy.

The fair takes place at the Bromley campus. To register to attend visit www.bromley.ac.uk.

Science festival creates big bang

THE popular Kent Festival of Science returned recently to Canterbury College, with 1,800 turning up for the two-day event.

Among the attractions was the chance to find out some of the tricks of the trade of a forensic investigator, the UK's biggest astrodome and a host of lively experiments. Co-director John Coad said: ''We complement what goes on in schools.''

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good-news story, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **01303 817100**.

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Paperwork spring clean helps business in long run

By Rachel Butler

IDEALLY you will have kept on top of all day-to-day paperwork alongside the important matters of business, but as that's not always possible, doing an organisational spring clean now could save you time and money in the long run.

A good place to start is maintaining your firm's statutory registers.

All companies must keep a register of shareholders, register of directors/secretaries, of directors' residential addresses and of charges as a matter of law. You should review the registers to ensure these are kept up to date.



Most companies also keep registers of applications and allotments, share transfers and debenture holders, as a matter of best practice.

Are your filings at Companies House up to date?

Each year, a company has an obligation to complete an annual return and accounts and file these with Companies House.

Failure to file these within the specified time frame can result in fines being imposed against the company and its officers. Visit www.companieshouse.gov.uk to check your company's filing deadlines.

You should also ensure your other filings are up to date, including the issue of new shares, any changes to directors and certain resolutions passed by the company.

Consider if your company's Articles of Association and any Shareholders' Agreement are fit for purpose (for example, what are the requirements for calling and holding meetings?).

If not, consider whether these governing documents can be amended to suit your company's current requirements.

Ensure you keep accurate minutes of board meetings. These must be signed by the chairman of the meeting and kept for at least 10 years in hard copy or electronic format. The minutes provide evidence of the matters decided at the board meeting, so make sure these are as accurate and as detailed as possible.

Is your name correctly displayed?

If your company has a trading name, you are still required to disclose your firm's registered name on certain documents and in certain locations, including outside every registered office and location at which you carry on business, on business documents and correspondence, and on the company's website.

Finally, review all your contracts. If you have business contracts with customers or suppliers that remain unsigned, then it is worth reviewing the terms to consider if they are still correct and if so, have the contracts signed for certainty.

Relying on an oral agreement with a third party can increase the risk of disputes arising.

Once you've given your company affairs a polish, maintenance is key to ensuring that next year's spring clean won't take so long.

■ **Rachel Butler is an associate in the corporate transactions team at Cripps Harries Hall.**

Good ethics are the only way to firm foundations

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

BANKING scandals, financial mis-selling and dodgy deals.

Wherever you look in the past few years, business has not come up smelling of roses.

These concerns have prompted a radical reassessment of how business should be conducted today and in the future – and it's now widely accepted that ethical enterprise offers the firmest foundations of good, and profitable, business.

As a consequence, new tax and accountancy partnership Aspreys, based in Bearsted, near Maidstone, is launching a new seminar.

The Only Way is Ethics will examine how having the right ethics is the only way to a sound reputation and healthy bottom line – and the best way forward for any business.

Chaired by the firm's founder, Arvind Lall, it will look to deliver the right message to business leaders across Kent.

Mr Lall is no stranger to public speaking. He already delivers lectures on business ethics to students at the University of Kent.

He operates Aspreys with partners Julia Hannon and Duncan Finn.

He said: "An ethical approach to business has been lacking in many sectors. I believe the scandals of recent years would not have happened if organisations and their staff had put ethics at the core of their business.

"Ethical business is now crucial to reputation and profitability. It is not only moral but also vital to commercial success in a world where customers increasingly look for honest dealing.

"They will shun any firms with dodgy credentials."

The new seminar will be launched on Wednesday, March 19, to explain to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from across Kent and Medway why a strong track record in ethical business practice is beneficial.



SEMINAR: Aspreys' free talk is called The Only Way is Ethics and it could help your firm

The free inaugural seminar features Kent-based speakers from the worlds of banking, finance, fashion, healthcare and security, including Jeremy Brett, manager at Handelsbanken Maidstone, as well as Daniel Ghinn from Creation Healthcare, and the former chairman of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

Tristan Wootten from FSI Worldwide, a security company based in Maidstone, will be speaking alongside fashion industry expert Adrian Foster.

Mr Lall added: "This is not just an issue for large businesses. We have created Aspreys with ethics at our heart to show SMEs that it makes a huge difference to them.

"The Only Way is Ethics seminar is designed to do just that."

This seminar – the first in a series planned by Aspreys – will be held at Bearsted Golf Club on Wednesday, March 19, from 4pm to 7pm. It will feature five speakers and promises lively debate. Refreshments will be provided.

Designer looks to open exclusive boutique store

« Continued from page 43

ess on a large scale but I am highly ambitious as a person and love to strive to achieve the very best possible."

The designer trained at the renowned KLC School of Design in Chelsea and believes it is important to use British manufacturing groups.

She adds: "Our entire lingerie and nightwear collection is handmade in Great Britain by couturiers that are specialists in their field.

"This is something we are very proud of as a new designer label and we always look to support our homeland industry where possible."

But Miss Brassington's ambitions do not stop there as she says she aims to be the youngest businesswoman to single-handedly launch a new global designer label.

Her journey will be an inspiring one to those considering setting up their own business. But after her experience thus far, and the fragile state of the economy, would she advise budding entrepreneurs to set themselves up in business?

"If you are highly ambitious, prepared for a very long ride and have the motivation to do whatever it takes to succeed then yes, I would advise them to.

"Having your own business gives you the chance to be creative, make decisions for yourself and have an independently driven career. It does also come with a huge amount of responsibility and stress, which can be very challenging at times. I am pleased that I took the decision to embark on this journey."

"Having your own business gives you the chance to be creative, make decisions for yourself and have an independently driven career. It does also come with a huge amount of responsibility and stress"

And with more collection launches and brand extensions on the horizon for 2014, Miss Brassington wants Miss Photogenic to own a boutique store in one of London's premium shopping districts in the very near future.

She added: "The aim is for Miss Photogenic to be a new multi-faceted global h;l;designer label in the areas of lingerie and nightwear, beauty, swimwear and fashion accessories. Within this time frame we aim to have a few well located designer boutiques situated in the prominent fashion capitals of the world."

'Light bulb' moment for couple who turned electrical business around

A ROCHESTER firm forced to shut up shop and lay off its entire workforce in 2008 has enjoyed a return to success as an online retailer.

Lakes Lighting & Homeware and Lakes Electrical are both set to break through the £1m turnover barrier this year.

The success has led them to invest more than £60,000 in a new retail outlet in Rochester's Medway City Estate and expand their staff.

Husband and wife team Lucie and Darren Findlay have completed an amazing turnaround having seen their company taken to the brink of extinction.

The pair decided to sell their leftover stock on eBay and the venture was such a success they achieved turnover of £300,000 in the first year, compared with £300 in the first six months in their shop.

Lucie Findlay, who runs Lakes Lighting & Homeware and employs six staff, said: "My dream was always to have a shop. There couldn't have been a worse time to have opened than 2008, but we have managed to build our business back up so successfully through the recession that it now gives us a really secure basis to re-launch so that our customers can come and see and feel our fabulous range of lights and homeware products."

Darren Findlay, who runs Lakes Electrical, now employs 15 people and works largely on high-end, new-build housing, commercial and public properties such as the refurbishment of Folkestone station.

He said: "It's been hard work, but it's a fantastic feeling of achievement to have reached this point."

The company is taking on an extra member of staff to help when the shop opens on Friday, February 28.

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KATIE 21yr old very attractive female who is up for most things, looking for daytime fun, no strings and discreet pls. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410573**

JEWISH widow, 67, loves animals, seeks genuine, Jewish gent, 68-73 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410547**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1960 Box 408297**

DAWN 38 dark hair/eyed medium built busty female who loves nights in/out, WLTM fun honest male/single dad with GSOH to help mend my broken heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410483**

TERRI 44 green eyed long legged busty blonde, loves to dress up and look feminine, seeking loving, fun, honest professional to fall head over her heals with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410315**

SUE attractive, likes walks, gardening, social drinks, looking for male to settle down with, 60's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410231**

ANGIE 38 year old attractive African lady, single mum seeking 39-50 year old man who drives, looking for a relationship. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4314539

WOULD you like to be my Valentine? Widow 68, seeking Valentine 68-70, likes most things, would like to share them with someone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410695**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1954 Box 366019**

BLONDE pretty, long legged, voluptuous, blue eyes, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410585**

LAURA happy size 12-14, attractive, loves shopping, gym, music, clubbing, eating in/out, looking for sincere honest male looking for more than just good fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410713**

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1955 Box 409991**

MARIE slim attractive fun brunette, looking for good times with exciting broadminded male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409707**

CLAIRE young 39 slim size 10, pretty, outgoing, seeks similar spontaneous male for nights in/out and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409417**

SUE young at heart female, very adventurous and looking for no strings fun with mature man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409251**

68YR old widow, seeking 68-70yr old gent, likes meals out, cosy nights in, lets start New Year with new outlook. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409467**

CATHY happy independent female looking for her soul mate, someone to spend quality time but who also likes their own space. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409909**

VANESSA 32yrs single mum, honest, loving, kind hearted, been hurt in the past enjoys music, reading etc, WLTM my very special Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409899**

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BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

LISA busty blonde 34yr old fun to be with single party goer, looking for similar male for adult fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408289**

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409107**

ANGIE 32 curvy size 16, very attractive, good company and really fun to be with. What are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409255**

SATURDAY night blues! Home alone again and looking for male companionship. Blonde, slim, 32yrs, attractive, what are you waiting for? Call me if you're normal and lovely. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408867**

SOPHIE attractive hard working female, who enjoys dancing and good company, WLTM loving male to enjoy nights out and genuine laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408625**

MARG elegant attractive affectionate lady who enjoys many varied interests WLTM genuine male 50-60yrs for mutual indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408511**

HEATHER enjoys holidays, eating in with a large bottle of wine, cooking, meeting new people seeking interesting male to get to know a little better. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408509**

ALEX 35, very attractive, slim, blonde, caring sensitive single mum, likes meals in/out, nice pubs, WLTM similar male/dad to love and care for. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408503**

ELAINE lonely divorced female with no ties, enjoys dog walking, cosy nights in, looking for reliable caring male to spend quality time **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408283**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

SARAH pretty petite green eyed female, lots of fun, likes children, animals, gym, eating out, running, sports, fast cars, shopping, seeking, nice guy to spend time with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408879**

JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me lets put the spark back. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409097**

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408293**

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

KAREN 55, fun loving, attractive, young at heart, seeks caring, affectionate man, 55-65 who loves animals and the simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408813**

MANDY blonde, blue eyes, voluptuous, honest, likes animals, walks, socialising, seeking older gent, late 70's early 80's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408741**

SELSEA 43, driver, own home, N/S, 5ft 8ins, slim, dark hair, green eyes, confident, outgoing, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 40-48. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408405**

KAREN blonde, long legged, many interests, very young looking, outgoing, adventurous, likable, WLTM my soul mate, could that be you? Pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407953**

CHRIS 39yr old attractive well built sporty lady looking for tall, happy, well built male to enjoy adult companionship, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407935**

DIANE average sort of lady seeking an average sort of man who will love me for who I am, appreciate my life, consider my interests and want to get to know me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402265**

25YR old very lonely unloved Asian female seeking true love, must be very discreet, enjoy good nights out and able to accommodate cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408249**

CATH attractive tall blonde, likes travel, walking, romantic nights out, cosy nights in, looking for Prince Charming, must be passionate and loyal. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408245**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779**

KIA 42, blonde, blue eyed, shapely, kind, caring, honest, seeks male, 70-80. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391807**

CATHY divorced independent hopeless romantic seeking special gent to spend really nice times with, get to know and take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407623**

LUCY truly wonderful brunette who really loves life, seeking sincere male for true friendship with a little romance thrown in for good measure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407457**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

Men Seeking

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EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441**

41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411**

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377**

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451**

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511**

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025**

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961**

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351**

RETIRED male, fit, active, seeks no strings discreet meet with female, any age and size. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410343**

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339**

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191**

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. **Tel No: 0905 515 7112 Box No: 408941**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575**

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541**

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421**

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415**

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343**

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409745**

TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-going female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409621**

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533**

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189**



ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355**

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277**



DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941**

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147**

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

JAMIE 6ft 1ins, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy going for no strings fun, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408051**

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717**

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567**

DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady. Whitstable. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439**

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033**

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065**

PROFESSIONAL 45yr old male, one son, bored of the same thing, seeks lady for possible romance. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386234**

CHRIS 6ft, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

55YR old male, average looks, GSOH, looking to meet similar lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408227**

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POWERING UP: Lexus hopes the revitalisation and lower cost of owning a CT200h will attract many new buyers, particularly business users

Case of hybrid revisited

Toyota's luxury arm has made some midlife changes to the executive sector's only hybrid hatchback, the CT200h, while also making it cheaper to own…

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Preview

Lexus CT200h

Price:	£20,995
Driving appeal:	**Not driven yet**
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	**VW Golf BlueMotion**

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LEXUS has pretty much admitted that the original version of its CT200h executive hatchback could have been better when launched in 2011.

There were plus points – premium sector's first hatchback hybrid, bomb-proof Lexus build quality and reliability – and it was the first time the Japanese prestige marque had launched a compact hatchback or front-wheel-drive model in the UK.

It was also an early indication that Lexus would be concentrating on petrol-electric hybrids rather than trying to tackle rival European upmarket brands in the diesel department.

Lexus's ace up the sleeve was access to the proven reliability of the hybrid petrol-electric powertrain from its Toyota parent's front-driven Prius – a model of similar scale to the CT200h design.

However, the CT200h simply underwhelmed the market; the styling was too staid and the chassis not dynamic enough for the thrusting young executives of the target market.

Worse, conventional opposition such as the Audi A3, BMW 1 Series, new-look Mercedes-Benz A-Class and Volvo V40 could rival the Lexus on the company-car taxation front. Most were also easier on the eye.

The radical midlife facelift version arriving now suggests that Toyota's prestige arm quickly saw the reality and responded well.

Changes most politely described as 'by popular demand' mean the facelift CT200h has better styling, ride quality and handling, plus generous equipment upgrades on top of the usual Lexus complement – all according to Lexus.





Other view…

the Petrolhead
It looks and surely will be dull. Hybrids may emit less CO_2, but I reckon they also reduce the driver's oxygen, sending him to sleep

She says
It's no looker, but Lexus is a strong brand and the idea of being ambitious yet eco-conscious could catch on with executives and their companies

the Eco-warrior
I'm always amazed by how much people judge themselves and others by the cars they drive, but here's one executive car with a conscience

The revised line-up is also up to £1,500 cheaper than before, depending on the model, with attractive Lexus Business Drive Contract Hire deals also on the table.

Prices start at £20,995 and those contract hire offers from £219 per month for the CT200h S entry model, ranging up to £259 a month for the likely best-seller, the mid-range Advance.

But Lexus hopes the clincher will be far lower cost of ownership.

All versions are below the 100g/km threshold, at which road tax is payable, but this also means business users secure the lowest band for benefit-in-kind taxation – 10 per cent for the first year.

Economy is also impressive on paper, with an official combined-cycle consumption of 78.5mpg for the S grade and 68.9mpg for other versions.

There is also a bit more much-needed panache about the car, though I really do feel Lexus could do with head-hunting someone like Peter Schreyer, the man credited with the original Audi TT design, who has transformed Kia's cars and image.

The revised CT200h has adopted the new and bigger Lexus corporate grille extending above and below the number plate and giving the car a lower, wider and meaner look.

This is further exploited by the racier F Sport version, using the same mesh-grille pattern as the new IS F Sport saloon.

The F Sport also gets a new rear spoiler with integrated air-ducts, while all new-look CT200hs have new detailing, wheel designs and a shark-fin radio antenna.

Cabin quality was never an issue with the CT200h, but there have been some tweaks, including a new slimline seven-inch centre console monitor, the smart new steering wheel from the new IS and a new shift lever for the automatic gearbox.

There are still six model grades, but mid-range Advance (£23,995) is seen as the key model and now gets parking sensors, heated front seats and the new fully-integrated Lexus Navigation system as standard.



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New CT 200h prices start from £20,995.00. Model shown is CT 200h S £20,995.00. ***For Business Users only. Initial rental and VAT applies.** Available on sales of new CT 200h S grade when ordered, registered and financed between 8 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 through Lexus Financial Services on Lexus Connect Contract Hire. At participating Lexus Centres. Advertised rental is based on a 4 year non maintained contract at 10,000 miles per annum with an initial rental of £1,314.00 + VAT. Excess mileage charges apply. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Subject to availability. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. The MPG figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated test results. They are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect actual driving experience.

CT 200h S fuel consumption figures: urban 78.5 mpg (3.6L/100km), extra urban 80.7 mpg (3.5L/100km), combined 78.5 mpg (3.6L/100km). CT 200h S CO_2 emissions 82g/km.



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500S: It's not huge but the Cinquencento is a great car for the cut and thrust of urban traffic and tight parking spots. Right, its award-winning Twin-Air motor.

500 fun-sized reasons for Fiat to be cheerful

Fiat's fabulous 500 has become a potent symbol of the Italian brand's restoration as one of the world's top car-makers, says **Steve Loader**

FIAT 500S TWIN-AIR

Price:	£12,810
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	zero
Best rival:	VW Up

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MOTOR-INDUSTRY bean-counters argue that small cars deliver market share but bigger cars make the profits.

It's a rule that Italy's Fiat has broken many times, though, usually through the success and sheer volume of one model (in many incarnations)... the little Fiat 500 or Cinquencento.

The original 500 or Topolino (little mouse) arrived in 1937 and went on to get post-war Italy mobile through its cheap and affordable motoring.

It was replaced in 1957 by the even more successful Nuova (new) 500, finally axed in 1975, living on, though, as the inspiration for the retro-chic current 500.

Such was the excitement generated by the latest 500 that Fiat had pre-sold the 58,000 year-one production output within three weeks of launch in 2007 – no wonder the UK's right-hand-drive launch was delayed until 2008.

This success also helped Fiat stage a remarkable financial and technical comeback after anxious years as the motor industry's 'dead man walking'. Recovery was further highlighted this year by its formal takeover of the whole of Chrysler – one of the US's once-mighty 'Big Three' car groups.

But if you thought the Fiat 500 (from £10,010) was simply a piece of clever marketing, note how the revitalised Italian group has complemented it with shrewd spin-offs like the scorching Abarth hot-hatch (from £14,205) and classy and practical 500C convertible (from £13,010).

The latter is not a full crop-top: wind-ruffling comes via a fully-opening roof, but the side pillars stay firmly in place.

All the same, it looks stylish and is another nod to its Nuova forerunner, which was also available with a roll-back roof.

There is state-of-the-art technology in the 500, with engines including Fiat's excellent 1.3-litre Multijet small diesel and the multiple-award-winning 875cc turbocharged twin-cylinder petrol unit, known as the Twin-Air.

This engine has spearheaded surging sales of small turbocharged petrol cars as we now look to downsize and cut our emissions and fuel consumption without resorting to weightier and more expensive diesel engines – not ideal for the dynamics and pricing of city cars and superminis.

And the Twin-Air 500 (from £12,010) might be small in size and ecological footprint, but it's not in performance.

Thanks to nifty turbocharging, this tiny engine in this tiny car outpunches many bigger contenders. It's fun to throw around and green, too. Most cars that duck beneath the 100g/km CO_2 bar to escape road tax are diesel or hybrid but hardly make the pulse race.

The sporty-looking 500S Twin-Air (£12,810) tested here feels nimble, though, and while a 0-62mph sprint speed in 11 seconds is hardly shattering, it feels fast thanks to the rapid response of the turbo and the thrumming engine beat when you open the throttle, a sound I have previously described as sounding like a box of irritable pheasants.

Of course, prodding these angry birds clobbers fuel consumption, but drive sensibly and averages of around 70mpg are reached easily.

But it would be naïve to argue that the 500's technical attractions are its key strength; no other small cars, apart from BMW's similarly retro Mini, or Citroën's eye-catching DS3, have such a strong image and are so much personalised by their owners, who often happily spend well over and above the purchase price – perhaps knowing that their little car's resale value will be good, too.

A cabin that cleverly recalls the days of the Nuova complements the 500's retro exterior.

True, it's not huge inside – rear legroom and boot space is modest – but it makes a great car for the cut and thrust of urban traffic and tight parking spaces.



FirstGEAR
Motoring news



308 Wagon to roll

PEUGEOT says the estate car spin-off from its smart new 308 family hatchback arrives in June.

With its rakish back end and optional full-length panoramic roof, the 308SW underpins the French marque's upmarket ambitions.

It will also introduce Peugeot's new 'PureTech' three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine in 110 and 130bhp outputs, but the low-emission BlueHDi 1.6-litre 120bhp diesel with combined-cycle 88.3mpg and road-tax exemption is the big draw.



One for the boys

IF Vauxhall's Adam city car has been seen as more a car for the girls, the newly-unveiled Adam Rocks 'urban mini-crossover' spin-off might be more to the boys' tastes.

Rugged outdoor looks, a raised ride height and an electric folding canvas roof catch the eye, but this little bruiser will also be the first Vauxhall featuring the General Motors marque's punchy new 115PS (114bhp) turbocharged 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol engine.



Value-added CR-V

HONDA has unveiled eye-catching value-added Black and White special editions of its stylish UK-built CR-V SUV.

Based on the existing high-spec SE-T version, the Black and White versions (from £28,400) each represent a saving of £770. Additional kit includes 19-inch Orion alloys, privacy glass, new patterned front grille, tailgate spoiler, integrated running boards and front and rear skid plates.

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GREAT HIGHLAND RAILWAYS & THE ISLE OF SKYE

Escorted Holiday by rail
6 days, half board, £649pp
Departs 18 June & 27 August, 2014

QUOTE: SC6/8-KOS

The Inverness to the Kyle of Lochalsh line - as featured in Michael Palin's original Great Railway Journeys TV series - has spectacular views, passing Loch Carron, the Cullin Hills and the Isle of Skye – enjoy a return trip on the train and a visit to Skye. We also include a ride on the Strathspey Steam Railway; a visit to Loch Ness, with the option of a loch cruise; and a Highlands coach tour with a whisky distillery visit.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout from London
- Return rail travel from London to Aviemore (also options to join at York, Newcastle and the hotel)
- 5 nights at a 3-star hotel in the Highlands with 5 dinners and 5 breakfasts
- Rail excursion to Kyle of Lochalsch
- Visit to the Isle of Skye
- Trip on the Strathspey railway
- All transfers & touring in Scotland



BRAEMAR GATHERING & HIGHLAND STEAM

Escorted Holiday by rail
6 days, half board, £609pp
Departs 4 September, 2014

QUOTE: BG9-KOS

Since 1848 the world-famous Braemar Gathering has been regularly attended by the reigning Monarch (as the Chieftain of the gathering) and members of the Royal Family. We will visit the gathering with reserved seating. We also tour the Trossachs and cruise on Loch Katrine; Ride the Strathspey Steam Railway to Aviemore; and visit Queens View and Pitlochry.

Note: Attendance by the Queen and Prince Charles not guaranteed

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout from London
- Return rail travel from London to Perth (also options to join at York, Newcastle and the hotel)
- 5 nights at a 3-star hotel in Perthshire with 5 dinners and 5 breakfasts
- Loch Katrine Cruise
- Ride on the Strathspey Railway
- Entry to Braemar Gathering - seated in open stand
- All transfers & touring in Scotland

RIVIERA OF FLOWERS, MONACO & PORTOFINO



QUOTE: FR-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, from £799pp
Departs 6 Apr, 6 Jun, 15 & 21 Sept, 2 Oct, 2014

CHAMPAGNE CHECK-IN

This super holiday, taking in the French and Italian Rivieras, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras before taking an afternoon Eurostar (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice then coach to Diano Marina. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel and excursions to Monaco, Eze, Portofino and Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille • 6 nights in Diano Marina - half board plus selected free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • All excursions • Transfers abroad

TUSCANY COAST & COUNTRY EXPLORER BY RAIL



QUOTE: TR5/9-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, £899pp
Departs 23 May & 20 September, 2014

Come with us to incomparable Tuscany. The Tuscan seaside town of Forte dei Marmi has been described as the region's Beverly Hills and here we enjoy free drinks every night at our hotel. We will visit Lucca, Pisa, Florence and Porto Venere - with access to stunning Cinque Terra. There is also the opportunity to visit Portofino.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Return Eurostar & TGV rail travel London St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in or near Nice & 6 nights in Italy with 6 buffet breakfasts, 6 dinners & Free Drinks from 6pm to 10pm every night
- Excursions & transfers

BRUSSELS' CARPET OF FLOWERS & BRUGES



QUOTE: BC8-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
4 days, £359pp
Departs 15 August, 2014

CHAMPAGNE CHECK-IN

Come with us to see Belgium's Carpet of Flowers - set in the unique, ancient surroundings of the Grand-Place in Brussels. The beauty and diversity of the displays is truly magical. Our holiday starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras famous Champagne bar before taking an early afternoon Eurostar direct to Brussels. We stay for 3 nights in a 4-star city-centre hotel and also visit the delightful city of Bruges.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return Eurostar & TGV rail travel London St Pancras to Brussels (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 3 nights B&B stay at a 4-star hotel in Brussels • Excursion to Bruges by train • Transfers from station to hotel on arrival and departure

ZUNDERT FLOWER PARADE & ANTWERP



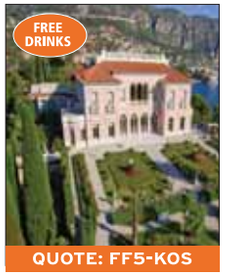
QUOTE: AZ9-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
4 days, £369pp
Departs 5 September, 2014

Come with us on a charming break taking in the spectacular Zundert Flower Parade and Antwerp. The parade is made up of breathtaking displays entirely created by volunteers using dahlias - the largest of its kind in the world. Many of them are animated, giving a truly realistic appearance. The town is also renowned as the birth place of Vincent Van Gogh. Antwerp, Belgium's second biggest city, is our base for this break and is a true architectural wonder.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Return rail Eurostar travel from London St Pancras to Antwerp (from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 3 nights B&B stay at a 3-star hotel in Antwerp
- Excursion to Zundert Flower Parade including reserved seating
- Transfers from station to hotel on arrival and departure

RIVIERA OF FLOWERS & GARDENS



QUOTE: FF5-KOS

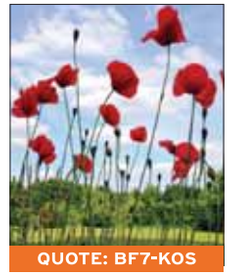
Escorted Holiday by rail
8 days, semi-all-inclusive £869pp
Departs 16 May, 2014

CHAMPAGNE CHECK-IN

This super floral sojourn starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras (Ebbsfleet departures on request) before travelling by Eurostar to Lille or Paris for an overnight stay. We continue by TGV train to Nice and Diano Marina. On the Riviera we visit Monaco and its Jardin Exotique, the Villa & Jardins Ephrussi de Rothschild, Hanbury Gardens, Serre de la Madone garden, and Portofino. We also enjoy Free Drinks every night at our hotel.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return Eurostar & TGV rail travel London St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille outbound • 6 nights in Diano Marina with 6 buffet breakfasts, 6 dinners and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local brands of beer, wine & spirits • All Excursions • Transfers abroad

BATTLEFIELDS OF FLANDERS & THE LAST POST



QUOTE: BF7-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
4 days, £369pp
Departs 11 July, 2014

2014 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the start of the First World War. By the end of 1914 the battlelines of the Allied and German forces were deadlocked and so began the onset of Trench Warfare which claimed so many Allied and German lives. We will visit historic Flanders, accompanied by a guide, we will also learn some fascinating military history at the interactive In Flanders Fields museum and also visit key sites of the Ypres battlefields as well as the Menin Gate where the last post is re-enacted every day at dusk.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout
- Return Eurostar from London St Pancras to Lille (from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 3 nights stay at a 3/4-star hotel in Lille
- 3 buffet breakfasts
- Excursions to Ypres and Flanders Fields and museum entries

Note: Price of Holidays by Air subject to flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply

new reg '14

New-car sales now back to pre-recession levels

UK plc back in the driving seat with new-reg sales a barometer of good economic progress

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IF new-car registrations are anything to go by, then the recession is well and truly over.

Gathering confidence and strength in UK plc helped ensure total annual registrations of 2,264,737, up 10.8 per cent on 2012.

It was also the highest annual total since 2007 – just before the recession hit – while market-watchers suggest a further 1 per cent growth during 2014.

Mike Hawes, chief executive at the industry's mouthpiece, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, claimed the UK new-car market had helped stimulate the country's economic recovery, saying: "While the European market is only now showing signs of improvement, the UK has consistently outperformed the rest of Europe with 22 consecutive months of growth.

"The 10.8 per cent increase in 2013 reflects the attractive financial offers available, as well as increased demand for more technologically-advanced new cars."

Lest anyone think rising registrations are sucking in too many imported cars and fuelling another classic British boom'n'bust scenario, it is also worth noting the UK's status as a major car-producer and exporter is also rising.

Car output here rose 3.1 per cent in 2013 to exceed 1.5 million units – the highest volume since 2007 – and a record two million is expected by 2017.

Motorists switching or downsizing to more fuel-efficient cars is part of the higher-registrations story, together with lower CO_2 emissions that can slash or even remove road tax.

Manufacturers, keen to keep car plants churning through the recession, have also pegged car prices over recent years and offered low-rate finance incentives such as maintenance plans and preferential insurance and advantageous PCP (personal contract plan) schemes that help motorists work out exactly what their monthly motoring budget will be.

And many would-be buyers have realised that buying a more frugal new car is a morale-boosting way to use savings earning little or no interest in the bank.





COOL BRITANNIA: Are models like this Rapid Fastback, pictured top, turning the once-ridiculed Skoda into a trendy brand? Renault has a history of this and recently struck again with its stunning Captur SUV.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)–78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2)–94.2 (3); Combined 36.7 (7.7)–88.3 (3.2). The range's official CO_2 emissions are 178–83g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary with driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

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Thinking small dominates buyers' minds

SOARING motoring costs have driven a rapid downshift in the size of cars we all prefer.

Fuel, insurance, greater environmental awareness and punitive road tax on larger cars have all played their part in turning us away from the typical family car, once epitomised by those ubiquitous Fords – the Cortina, Sierra and Mondeo – and squeezed us into family hatchbacks first, and now superminis.

The supermini, and even smaller city car, account for 40 per cent of new-car sales, followed by family hatchbacks with some 25 per cent.

It might not be long, though, before family hatchbacks are under threat, too, from the new kid on the block: the crossover.

As the name implies, this straddles several sectors by being part family hatch, part MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or people-carrier and part SUV (sports utility vehicle, such as Hyundai's ix35, the Renault Captur and Peugeot 3008).

Nobody is saying this burgeoning sector will catch the supermini/city car, though, which packs so much into a small package. Even the commonality of the two-box supermini shape – dictated by the need for compact on-road dimensions – can be addressed by ever more imaginative customisation.

This might be a roof of a different colour, pattern or decal such as a flag, or it could be special wheels, bespoke door mirrors or a wild paint job – superminis don't have to look alike.



ALL THAT JAZZ: Honda's UK-built Jazz offers a huge amount of cabin space



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: Chrysler Ypsilon ticks all the right boxes



SPACE STAR: Kia's spacious Picanto lives up to its supermini label



Models shown are MY14 Yaris Icon *plus* 1.0 VVT-i 3 door at £13,070 and AYGO Mode 1.0 VVT-i 3 door £9,695. Offer excludes metallic paint extra £450 on AYGO, £495 on Yaris. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail sales of MY14 Yaris (excluding Active & MY13 Yaris), AYGO Move and AYGO Mode when ordered between 3rd December 2013 and 31st March 2014 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ by 30th June 2014 on a 42 month AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0-30% deposit. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Excess mileage over 30,000 charged at 8p per mile on AYGO and Yaris. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and Conditions apply. †1 year's free comprehensive insurance offer is subject to purchase being made via Toyota Financial Services on a Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) only and is available on all new MY14 Yaris (excluding Active & MY13 Yaris), AYGO Move and AYGO Mode models when ordered and financed between 3rd December 2013 and 31st March 2014. Vehicles must be registered by 30th June 2014. All drivers must be aged 21 years and over. Offer is limited to the insured plus up to four additional drivers. The insured and all drivers must have held a full UK driving licence for a minimum of 2 years and had no more than 1 fault claim in the last 3 years. Offer only available to customers with no more than 1 minor motoring conviction in the last 3 years. Standard Toyota Motor Insurance Terms & Conditions apply (available on request) - these will be confirmed in the policy document. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km); Yaris Range: Urban 41.5 (6.8) -91.1 (3.1), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5) - 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 Emissions 127g/km - 79g/km. AYGO Range: Urban 52.3 (5.4) - 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 62.7 (4.5) - 65.7 (4.3). CO_2 Emissions 104g/km - 99g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.



AFFORDABLE SUV LUXURY: The well-equipped Jeep Grand Cherokee caters for all needs



VOLVO VERSATILITY: Coupé styling hides the great practicality that the V40 offers drivers

If you must think bigger...

SUPERMINIS rule the UK car market, but many buyers need more space for their family or to pursue an active or sporty lifestyle.

Fortunately, the motor industry has become adept at identifying niches within niches – where a car showroom might once have carried a marque's four key models, there may now be as many as a dozen.

The SUV (sports utility vehicle) and MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) are two of the most popular alternatives.

Rough, tough 4x4 styling inspired the former, but when drivers realised they simply weren't using the full off-road capacity, the complexity was reduced and the SUV or 'soft-roader' was born.

Latterly, these are increasingly available in frugal front-wheel-drive-only form.

The MPV's one-box style and height evolved from the need to carry the maximum number of people and their luggage; a sort of posh minibus for which the term 'people-carrier' was quickly coined.

The usual five or seven seats are also installed with flexibility in mind so that they can be folded in any combination or even left flat, turning the MPV into a useful van.

Not happy to leave it there, manufacturers then realised they could marry both types and add a dash of family hatchback driveability to create the crossover.

But not everyone is convinced by these newcomers, so there has also been a revival of the estate car, not that it's often referred to so humbly – sports tourer, ST and other variations are more likely.

This is because modern estates are expected to say more about your active living.

Indeed, many are described as 'lifestyle estates', where looks are often given priority over load-carrying prowess.

Nevertheless, an estate is still a superior carrier to an equivalent hatchback and some versions even have a higher ground clearance and 4x4 for limited off-roading.

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*5.9% APR Representative and £1,000 finance deposit allowance available over 42 months on a Lexus Connect (PCP) scheme with 0%-35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Only on new retail sales of IS when ordered and proposed for finance between 8 January 2014 and 31 March 2014, registered and financed by 30 June 2014 through Lexus Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 35,000 miles at 12 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Lexus Centre are independent of Lexus Financial Services. New IS prices start from £26,495 OTR. Model shown is IS 300h SE (with Premium Navigation) costing £30,105 including optional metallic paint at £610. Car shown not to UK specification. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

IS Series fuel consumption and CO_2 figures: Urban 22.8 – 64.2 (12.4 – 4.4 l/100km), extra-urban 38.7 – 62.8 (7.3 – 4.5 l/100km), combined 30.7 – 65.7 (9.2 – 4.3 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 99 – 213 g/km.

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*Price refers to the ŠKODA Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS model in Brilliant Silver metallic and Denim Blue metallic paint with a temporary spare steel wheel only, while stocks last. Available on new retail orders subject to availability before the 31 March 2014. Available for over 18s. Retail sales only. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Model shown is Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS.

Official Fuel Consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.





Save money by caring for your '14-plate motor

CAR-OWNERS used to service and maintain their own cars as much as possible, but it's now left largely to the professional mechanic – or technician, as garages prefer to call them now.

And though modern cars are far more reliable than ever before, we still have a tendency to ignore faults and stretch service intervals far longer than we ought to, endangering the warranty and provenance of the vehicle when we come to sell – and that could cost you money.

So, having bought a new '14-reg car:

- Stick to the service record. Get it serviced at the correct mileages or annually and ensure the servicing book is stamped up, although some motor marques are switching to centralised digital records.
- Read the warranty thoroughly to ensure there are no possible pitfalls that could endanger the guarantee.
- Act on any recalls from the manufacturer, even if they do not relate specifically to safety – it will help maintain the warranty and future saleability of the car.
- An MOT certificate does not guarantee the car's safety and reliability, even if has just passed. Problems can arise at any time and must be checked as soon as possible.
- Check lights regularly for safety and legality. Get used to 'lighting up' in the garage or when you are nosed in or backed up to a wall.
- Check tyres – including the spare – monthly... and that includes the pressures! Though the legal tread depth is 1.6mm, most motoring authorities advise replacement at 2mm, especially in winter.
- Keep oil, windscreen-washer, coolant, power-steering, clutch and brake-fluid levels topped up without over-filling and make those checks on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights; it could be too late to prevent damage or compromise safety.
- Replace wiper-blades. There is little point in keeping the washer topped up if the blades are worn or split. But if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you – use a spray and elbow grease.



LOOK AFTER IT! Modern cars like the latest Skoda Yeti, pictured above, Toyota RAV4 SUVs, top left, and the smart Lexus IS executive saloon are more reliable, but they must still be cared for to retain their value for selling later



Colour matters when trading in

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RESEARCH by the AA shows that only 1 per cent of men and 3 per cent of women think colour is important when choosing a new car.

But they need to think again because hard-nosed second-hand buyers are fussier about what they spend their cash on, especially if they have to live with the car's colour for longer than the three years of a typical first owner.

So if a '14-reg new-car-buyer gets the colour wrong, this could wipe thousands off its value at trade-in time – especially if it's a premium or sports model.

Partnering it with a wild interior treatment is also a potential no-no, but leather or a quality man-made equivalent is well worth the investment – it looks classier, is resistant to dirt and wears better.

Most buyers play safe, though, so black, blue, red or silver dominate and metallic treatments are popular, but white is coming up fast, from being nowhere a few years ago.

This has been driven by the vogue for Apple consumer electronics and by upmarket motor brands using the colour in their marketing and advertising.

However, along with darker colours, it shows dirt badly, while silver is seen as the easiest to keep clean.

In the case of darker colours, fighting road grime may also highlight light scratches caused by more frequent visits to the car-wash.

Silver is still No 1, then, but blue and black are not far behind, while red, green and white make up a following pack.

On the other hand, if you are opting for a sporting car, bright colours are king.

Some performance models even have their own bespoke colours such as sunburst yellows and acid greens, usually paired with smoked or black alloys – discerning used-car-buyers will want these combinations just as much as the car's first buyer.



HEAVY METAL: A 'burnt orange' metallic finish, seen on this newly-launched Hyundai i10, is becoming popular



THE SPORTING CHOICE: Bright blue is a favourite colour for racy models like this new Renault Clio GT-Line



WILL WHITE CATCH SILVER? These new Peugeot 308s highlight a tussle going on between white and silver



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Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example: XC60 D4 AWD R-Design

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Official fuel consumption for the New Volvo XC60 range in MPG (l/100km): Urban 18.6 (15.2) - 57.6 (4.9), Extra Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 65.7 (4.3), Combined 26.4 (10.7) - 62.8 (4.5). CO_2 Emissions 249 - 117g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.

Finance subject to status. 5.9% finance available on all XC60 models at participating dealers on vehicles registered by 31st March 2014. Dealer contribution available for cash or finance customers. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) pay the GFV (Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment) to own the vehicle; (ii) part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available; or (iii) return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission for the introduction. Terms and conditions apply. 18s or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Volvo Car Credit RH1 1SR.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda2 range: Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 45.6 (6.2). Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) - 65.7 (4.3). Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 56.5 (5.0). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 145 - 115.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

Retail sales only, subject to vehicle availability for vehicles registered between 01.02.14 and 31.03.14 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% finance available on all Mazda2 models. Example shown: Mazda2 1.3 5dr Colour Edition £184 per month with Optional Final Payment of £3,532.¦is based on 9,000 miles per annum over 42 months on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase and includes dealer contribution. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew. Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Return. Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantor/family may be required. Mazda Financial Services, PO Box 481, Reading, RG1 1JG. We earn money when you buy a new car. Finance providers may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Model shown: Mazda2 1.3 5dr Colour Edition OTR from £11,745. Model shown features optional Pearlescent paint (£500). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. **Available as a free accessory. Features a 2 year Parrot warranty. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified.

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‡Model shown is Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 bhp Progression at £18,745 OTR† including Luna Pearl Metallic Paint at £510. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 37.2 – 56.5 mpg (7.6 – 5.0 l/100km); Extra Urban 34.0 – 83.1 mpg (8.3 – 3.4 l/100km); Combined 44.1 – 70.6 mpg (6.4 – 4.0 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 148 – 104 g/km.

±Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption.

*£2,399 customer deposit, £5,523 optional final payment, 48 month contract. With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in these examples) and being in good condition. Offers may be withdrawn or amended without prior notification. Offer subject to status, a guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW.

^^£1,000 Alfa Romeo Deposit Contribution is available on PCP, HP and Cash only and is valid from 3 January – 31 March 2014 on selected Alfa Giulietta models. Participating dealers only. Retail sales only. Terms and Conditions apply and are subject to exclusions.

†On the road price includes 12 months' road fund licence, first vehicle registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures and prices are correct at time of publishing.

54311



HYBRID SUV OPTION: Lexus RX450h



A FAVOURITE AMONG SUVs: The Hyundai Santa Fe has proved popular

Dos and don'ts for your new car

- **DON'T** accept the first deal on offer – be ready to haggle.
- **DO** ask about trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts or extras.
- **DON'T** fall for what seems like a big bargain before you even haggle. It could be an unpopular engine or trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago – it might be just as thirsty as your old car and will depreciate badly.
- **DO** pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it isn't getting any easier out there.
- **DO** beware road-tax-exempt but expensive eco models – check price, running costs, green credentials and the savings over your planned mileage versus years of ownership, then compare against the closest standard version. The savings to be made on the standard car may surprise you.
- **DON'T** assume diesel will save – you usually pay more upfront, so you need to cover a lot of miles to recover that cash in fuel economy, while the engines are generally heavier, which means more wear on front tyres and mechanicals. The fuel is also dearer, and economy and emissions on small petrol cars have improved and they are often nicer to drive. In short – do your sums.



SPORTING STYLE: Alfa Romeo's MiTo supermini exudes Italian class

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.# On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Vehicle Excise Duty, first registration fee and VAT. Offers are available for registrations between 17/12/13 and 01/04/14 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE CHRYSLER YPSILON RANGE IN MPG (L/100KM): EXTRA URBAN 65.7 (4.3) – 88.3 (3.2), URBAN 44.1 (6.4) – 60.1 (4.7), COMBINED 55.4 (5.1) – 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 EMISSIONS IN G/KM 118 – 97.

FUEL CONSUMPTION AND CO_2 FIGURES ARE OBTAINED FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH EC DIRECTIVES/REGULATIONS AND MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF REAL-LIFE DRIVING CONDITIONS. FACTORS SUCH AS DRIVING STYLE, WEATHER AND ROAD CONDITIONS MAY ALSO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON FUEL CONSUMPTION. *MODEL SHOWN: YPSILON 1.2 S IN CLAY RED. PROMOTION AVAILABLE ON NEW YPSILON MODELS REGISTERED BEFORE 31ST MARCH 2014. WITH CHRYSLER HORIZON YOU HAVE THE OPTION TO RETURN THE VEHICLE AND NOT PAY THE FINAL PAYMENT, SUBJECT TO THE VEHICLE NOT HAVING EXCEEDED AN AGREED ANNUAL MILEAGE (A CHARGE OF 6P PER MILE FOR EXCEEDING 6,000 MILES PER ANNUM IN THIS EXAMPLE) AND BEING IN GOOD CONDITION. FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS. GUARANTEES MAY BE REQUIRED. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. AT PARTICIPATING DEALERS ONLY. WE WORK WITH A NUMBER OF CREDITORS INCLUDING CHRYSLER FINANCIAL SERVICES. CHRYSLER FINANCIAL SERVICES, PO BOX 4465, SLOUGH, SL1 0RW. FIAT - CHRYSLER AND CNH INDUSTRIAL ARE OFFICIAL GLOBAL PARTNERS OF THE EXPO MILANO 2015. TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE VISIT CHRYSLER.CO.UK. PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS (01/14). CHRYSLER IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF CHRYSLER GROUP LLC.

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Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption. Promotion available on new Grand Cherokee models registered between 3rd January and 31st March 2014. ▲Deposit required. 0% APR Hire Purchase available for a 3 year term with a minimum deposit of 10% required. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and conditions apply. We work with a number of creditors including Jeep Financial Services. Jeep Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. Fiat - Chrysler and CNH Industrial are Official Global Partners of the Expo Milano 2015. To find out more please visit jeep.co.uk. *Jeep Grand Cherokee Service Plan ("Service Plan") is now available to all new MY 14 Jeep Grand Cherokee models registered between 3rd January and 31st March 2014. Up to 3-years/30,000 miles (whichever comes first) free servicing offer applies to all new 14MY Grand Cherokee models. Retail sales only. The Service Plan will cover parts, lubricants and labour as part of the manufacturer standard servicing schedule – ask dealer for full details. Service Plan membership card will be sent to you following vehicle purchase. Offer only valid at authorised Jeep dealers and service agents. Prices and specifications correct at the time of going to print (02/14). Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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GREENING IT: Toyota's Prius, below, is the leading hybrid model, but check out eco versions of conventional models, too, such as the Volvo XC60 SUV, pictured left, or Vauxhall Zafira Tourer MPV

Save money by joining 'green' brigade

ENVIRONMENTAL considerations have been the driving force behind making our cars more eco-friendly, but savvy drivers now know that going green also saves money.

Many new models not only help to offset ever-rising fuel bills but also lower or even remove road-tax bills altogether.

The latest tax bandings range from zero for cars with the lowest CO_2 emissions (below 100g/km) right up to £1,065 a year for gas-guzzling limos or 4x4s.

Naturally, anyone spending £50,000-£100,000 on a car won't worry about small change like that, but most of us like saving a few quid on fuel and tax while also doing our bit for the environment.

Longer term, electric cars may be the answer, but battery technology must catch up and the emissions argument for electric is misleading.

Until we have zero-emission power stations, electric cars simply transfer the CO_2 and noxious-gas output from exhaust pipe to belching chimney.

Production of hydrogen to power our cars raises a similar dilemma.



Are hybrids the answer, then?

Well, they tend to be dearer upfront, but the savings in running costs and tax can be significant.

On the other hand, conventional internal-combustion-engine running costs and emissions are falling while efficiency increases.

In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what government prodding has achieved.

Most car-makers now have an eco sub-brand, but weigh potential long-term savings against upfront cost – if you don't cover enough miles to make the fuel savings offset the eco car's purchase price, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol cars, either; the higher price of diesels and the fuel at the pumps must be compared with new small-capacity low-emission/consumption yet lively turbocharged petrol engines.



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Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example. New Generation i10 Premium 1.2

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation i10 range: Urban 35.3 (8.0) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 45.6 (6.2) – 65.7 (4.3), CO_2 Emissions 142 – 98 g/km. Fuel consumption figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

Model shown is the i10 Premium 1.2 at £11,275 in Stardust Grey metallic paint at £455 included, plus optional 15" alloy wheels at £325 included. On the road (OTR) price shown includes customer saving discount where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *5.9% APR available on all New Generation i10 models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle, Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 30th January and 31st March 2014, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Visit www.hyundai.co.uk/owning or ask your local dealer for details.

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The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Senior Staff Nurse – Pre-assessment
Full time, Margate
Circa £26,000 per annum Dependant on experience
Qualifications: Registered Nurse 1st Level
Minimum 3 years post registration/equivalent experience, preferably in a surgical ward or OPD
Evidence of continual professional development
Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager 07925 978812

Staff Nurse
Full time, Margate
£23,000 - £25,000 per annum Dependant on experience
Qualifications: Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/ medical procedures
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Mary Guarniari, Matron 01843 234252

Health Care Assistant – Out Patients Department
Full time, Margate
£16,000 per annum
Qualifications: Relevant NVQ Level 2 or equivalent experience
Previous experience working in an outpatients Dept.
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Carolyn Flegg, Outpatient Manager 07925 978812

Porter/Handyman
Full time, Margate
£15,035.87 per annum
Qualifications: Relevant NVQ Level 1-2 or City and Guilds
Experience in Carpentry, plumbing and basic DIY skills
Smart, personable with excellent communication skills
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Mary Guarniari, Matron 01843 234252

Receptionist/Administrator
Full time, Margate
£15,055 per annum
Qualifications: NVQ Level 1 or 2 in Customer Services
Maths and English to GCSE or equivalent
2 years experience of working with the public
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Caroline McSkeane, Outpatient Administration Supervisor 01843 234372

(Previous applicants need not apply)

Closing date for applications Friday 14 March 2014
For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Wright, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Private Hospital, 2nd Floor, Atina House, 5 Bench Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1JH
Telephone: 01304 245961 Fax: 01304 207320
E-mail: joanne.wright@spencerhospitals.com

Alternatively you can download an application form and job description from our website www.spencerprivatehospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check

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Motorline Škoda has arrived in Gillingham, Medway
Car Sales Executives
Following recent acquisition of Sherlodge Skoda, Gillingham, Motorline is now seeking car sales executives to join our team.
We are keen to hear from professionals who have previous sales experience and can demonstrate a high level of achievement and customer satisfaction. You must also have excellent communication skills and be confident, ambitious and flexible. Car sales experience would be preferable.
We offer excellent earnings potential, benefits include a company car and future career development opportunities within the Motorline Group.
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Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including 350 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 –
"a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Learning Support Assistant

NJC Grade D2

Part time 36 hours per week term time only

£15,039 - £19,126 pro rata

We require a part-time Learning Support Assistant preferably as soon as possible or from release of your current employer for 32 hours per week, 5 days a week term time only. The successful candidate will work closely with the SENCO at this 'Outstanding' grammar school.

You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experience in a similar role would be an advantage.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School was designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools and is a National Support School.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, the Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary Academy, Elaine Primary Academy, All Hallows Primary Academy and finally St James Primary as a co-sponsored academy all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications – 14th March 2014

Interviews will be taking place on – 19th March 2014

Aspire – Achieve – Excel

National Teaching School · Medway Inclusion School · The Williamson Trust (aspire achieve excel) · National College National Support School · Ofsted Outstanding 2008 2009

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for an…

Occupational Therapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team.
Medway Scale B2 – point 32 to 41 (£27,323 to £34,894)
(Full time – term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is currently located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Occupational Therapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential. The postholder will be offered the opportunity to express their creativity, work holistically and demonstrate their strengths whilst undertaking a wide variety of tasks within the post.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant OT qualification. The successful candidate will work as part of a larger therapy team, alongside Physiotherapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Music and Art Therapists. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 21st March 2014

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CVs will not be accepted.

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Senior reporter

Permanent role, based near Ashford

WE ARE on the look out for a talented senior reporter to join our close-knit team working across Kent on Sunday and our associated websites.

You must possess a real flair for the written word, be full of ideas, and just as comfortable writing a 2,500-word in-depth news analysis piece as you are handling a breaking news story.

The successful candidate should also have proven experience on local newspapers, and have NCE qualifications or equivalent experience.

You must be prepared to work hard and hit our demanding deadlines. This is not a role for the faint-hearted.

In exchange, you'll work for the revamped, redesigned Kent on Sunday newspaper, where the focus is firmly on quality journalism with striking photography.

You will also comply with the current PCC Editor's Code of Practice.

In exchange we offer a competitive salary, pension scheme, five weeks annual leave and a host of other voluntary benefits.

You will be based in our office in Ashford. It is essential you have a car and hold a full driver's licence.

To apply, please attach your CV, along with a covering letter, explaining why you are suitable for the role and what you could bring to our news operation.



Send it to: Chris Britcher, Editor, Kent on Sunday, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.
Or email to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk putting 'senior reporter vacancy' in the subject line.

Deadline for applications 7th March 2014

ARCHANT Inspiring Communities · Kent on Sunday



"I think they are miracle workers. They have transformed my child's life and ours."

Parent of student at Bradstow School

Bradstow School, 34 Dumpton Park Drive,
Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1BY
Tel: 01843 862123 Fax: 01843 866648
Website: www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk



Living and Learning Together

Speech and Language Therapist

37 hours per week, all year round Salary Scale £32,072 to £34,894 (NHS Band D Equivalent)

BRADSTOW SCHOOL
Living and learning together in a culture of gentleness

Bradstow is a residential special school maintained by the London Borough of Wandsworth for children with severe learning difficulties who are on the autistic spectrum continuum. Many of our pupils have associated communication difficulties and emotional/behavioural challenges associated with their disabilities and medical problems. At Bradstow our primary aims are to enable young people to develop their communication skills and the skills needed to manage their own behaviour, thus enabling them to access everyday opportunities in the community and to live ordinary lives. We endeavour to provide as many reciprocal inclusive opportunities as possible.



The school is situated on a large site in the seaside town of Broadstairs in East Kent. Our facilities include an amphitheatre, library, swimming pool, parents' flat, interactive soft play and sensory rooms, interactive bicycle track, pottery, all-weather football pitch, sensory garden, and extensive grounds and horticultural projects.

Judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, Bradstow is a specialist school for communication and interaction. The school offers a range of specialist support and expertise, particularly in the areas of Gentle Teaching, Positive Behaviour Support and Functional Communication. Bradstow School has received international recognition from the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM), being a prize winner in the areas of Customer Focus, Leading with Vision, Inspiration and Integrity and Succeeding through People. Bradstow School is also an Investors in People 'Champion'.

Our vision for the future is to offer extended provision for our pupils by establishing a continuum of flexible support, ranging from day placement to 38–week residential up to 52-week residential to meet individual needs.

If you would like to join our community as the Speech and Language Therapist we are confident that you will find this both the most fulfilling and challenging job you have ever undertaken.

The successful candidate will lead a specialist Communication Team to support children and young adults on the Autistic Spectrum Continuum with Severe Learning Disabilities and associated challenging behaviours. This will be carried out in close collaboration with all staff, to develop the students' overall functional communication and language skills with a focus on functional skills in everyday life. Also to take the lead on all communication and language issues at Bradstow School, acting as the point of reference for educational and residential staff teams at all levels, and providing support, guidance and professional development to child contact staff and families on developing functional communication skills.

You will be provided with an extended and ongoing package of induction and training. We believe that staff training and professional development, together with the other staff well being support systems in place, are essential in our specialised field and are at the core of the outstanding success of the school.

If you would like to join our team, and help us to continue to transform the lives of these children and their families, please contact us. Working at Bradstow will be challenging and you will need to be committed to the needs of the young people and the school. In return we offer you a highly rewarding and satisfying career which will continue to develop your skills - with quite a bit of fun thrown in as well!

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

Applications should be received by 5pm, 31st March 2014



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NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in two areas of land, which are for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the areas of land consist of or form part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of the land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than 7th March 2014.

SCHEDULE

Land at Wickham Gardens, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.04 hectares)

Land lying to the north of Bright Ridge, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.06 hectares)

Paul Cummins, Legal Service Manager

Dated 14th February 2014

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Take notice that Kuldeep Sandhu has made an application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 for a variation to the premises licence for Stop and Shop, 16-18 Canterbury Street , Gillingham , Kent ME7 5TX. The application is to: Change consent for the sale of alcohol from numbers 16-20 Canterbury Street to 16-18 Canterbury Street . This application has been made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf , Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR. Full details of the application and plans can be viewed at Gun Wharf , Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR during normal hours of business. Any interested party who wishes to make a representation about this application should do so in writing to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR or by sending an email to licensing@medway.gov.uk. no later than 24th March 2014. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries a maximum fine of £5,000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Changes to Foxwood School, Hythe and Highview School, Folkestone

Kent County Council is proposing to merge and relocate Foxwood and Highview Schools. The merger will be effected by the closure of Foxwood School and the redesignation and enlargement of Highview School following which the school will be rebranded and relocated into a new building in Park Farm Road, Folkestone.

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to discontinue Foxwood School, a maintained special school for 122 pupils with Profound and Severe Needs, Seabrook Road, Hythe, Kent CT21 5QJ on 31 August 2015. All pupils attending Foxwood School at the time of the closure will be transferred to the roll of Highview School.

Notice is also given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to make the following prescribed alterations to Highview School, Moat Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DJ

- To expand the school from 160 places to 336 places from 1 September 2015.
- To change the designated need type. The school currently makes provision for SEN pupils with Complex Needs. It is intended that the school will make provision for SEN pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs from 1 September 2015.
- To relocate the rebranded Highview School from the sites at Seabrook Road, Hythe and Moat Farm Road, Folkestone to a site at Park Farm Road, Folkestone from 1 January 2016.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from David Adams, Area Education Officer, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. The complete proposal is also available on the website at

http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/school_consultations.aspx

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposals to David Adams, Area Education Officer, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU.

Signed: PATRICK LEESON
Corporate Director
Education, Learning and Skills
Kent County Council

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Date: 2 March 2014

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/02147/LB: Quaives Cottage, Seaton Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RW Taking down and rebuilding existing garage within the grounds of a Listed Building **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hayward** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/14/00169/FUL: Woodlands Farm, Calcott Hill, Sturry, CT3 4NB Installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure, including photovoltaic panels, mounting frames, inverters, transformers, substations, communications building, fence and pole mounted security cameras, for the life of the solar farm. **Applicant: Lightsource SPV23** Reason: Major development.

CA/14/00196/FUL: Block A, St Andrews Close, Canterbury, CT1 2RP Erection of office building comprising three storey extension above existing ground floor plus single storey extension to south west corner; construction of upper ground floor pedestrian access from back of footpath. **Applicant: Cranmer Investments (Folkestone) Ltd** Reason: Major and conservation area.

CA/14/00217/FUL: Sunflowers, Lambkin Wall, Wickhambreaux, CT3 4BB Demolish existing single-storey garage and side extension, construct a new garage with pitched roof and extended loft space with a pitched roofed sun room to the side of the dwelling. **Applicant: Mr C Harris** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/14/00224/FUL: 22 Victoria Park, Herne Bay, CT6 5BL Replacement windows to front elevation with white uPVC vertical sliders into existing frames. **Applicant: Mr R Cottrell** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/14/00285/FUL: Land between 16-22 The Street, Adisham, CT3 3JL Proposed erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings with associated off street parking. **Applicant: The Church Commissioners for England** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/14/00288/FUL: 2 Sea Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AN Replacement of front door. **Applicant: Mrs Long** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/14/00290/FUL: 35 St Georges Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LE Refitting the empty unit to form a KFC by redecorating the existing shopfront, new entrance door with new side panels and redecorated rear service doors, replacing existing plant with new and installing new condensors for new cold rooms internally. **Applicant: Scotco Restaurants** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/14/00291/ADV: 35 St Georges Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LE New halo illuminated Colonel Sign, new fascia with halo illuminated KFC built up letters and new internally illuminated KFC letters. **Applicant: Scotco Restaurants** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/14/00302/FUL: 3 and 4 Leggetts Lane, Whitstable, CT5 1AW Erection of four town houses with parking. **Applicant: Sea Street Developments Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/14/00314/TPO: Petham House, Broadway, Petham, CT4 5RX Fell two Scots Pines due to excessive height causing significant dangerous movement in both low and high winds. **Applicant: Mr T Kerwood** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/14/00331/FUL: 37 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP Rear ground floor extension. **Applicant: Dr Schmidt** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/14/00340/TAM 38B St Dunstans Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BY 10m high wooden pole and one span of overhead cable to the existing pole. 12 existing wires will be relocated to the new pole. **Applicant: Mrs Johns** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/14/00343/FUL 2 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, CT6 8TB Proposed tyre replacement garage and replacement car wash enclosure and change of use to incorporate tyre replacement operation on the site. **Applicant: Hand Car Wash** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/14/00357/ADV 56A High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1BD Installation of non illuminated fascia sign, hanging sign, name plate and poster sign. **Applicant: Royal Bank of Scotland** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/14/00371/FUL Little Breach Farm, Elham Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6LN Replacement outbuilding. **Applicant: Mr Thurley and Ms Rowland** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

CA/14/00372/LB Little Breach Farm, Elham Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6LN Replacement outbuilding. **Applicant: Mr Thurley and Ms Rowland** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc** to arrive on or before **Monday 24 March 2014**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 28 February 2014

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council www.shepway.gov.uk

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0129/SH* - Prospect Farm Gibraltar Lane Hawkinge Kent - Erection of single storey detached dwelling.

Y13/1057/SH† - Meadow View Blackhouse Hill Hythe Kent CT21 5UN - Outline planning application for the erection of a detached two-storey dwelling

Y14/0091/SH# - Land Adjacent Framlea (known Locally As Pod Corner) Rye Road Brookland Kent - Outline application for the erection of eight residential dwellings with a village green and children's playground, associated access, parking and landscaping.

Y14/0138/SH - 50 - 56 Shorncliffe Road (formally Westbrook House) Folkestone Kent CT20 2WH - Erection of four storey care home, being matters of Appearance reserved to outline planning permission Y10/0077/SH

Y14/0133/SH - 65 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5AJ - Change of use from a footwear retail shop (A1 use) to a mixed class coffee shop (A1/A3 use).

Y14/0134/SH - 65 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5AJ - Advertisement consent for an externally illuminated fascia sign and a non-illuminated hanging sign

Y14/0052/SH - Howletts & Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks Port Lympne Aldington Road Lympne Hythe Kent - Siting of 16 timber camping pods and 4 timber cabin lodge holiday units, together with formation of access tracks.

Y13/0485/SH - Flat 5 16 Augusta Gardens Folkestone Kent CT20 2RR - Installation of 8 replacement upvc windows

Y14/0166/SH - Quain Court Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2HH - Pollarding back to previous points of two Sycamore trees situated within a conservation area

Y14/0090/SH - 6 St Andrews Road Littlestone New Romney Kent TN28 8RB - Installation of rear dormer window.

Y14/0155/SH - Aboyne House 46 High Street New Romney Kent TN28 8AT - Listed building consent for internal alterations in connection with change of use of upper floor to restaurant (Class A3).

Y14/0139/SH - Land Opposite Lisheen The Undercliff Sandgate Kent - Crown reduction back to previous pruning points of seven Sycamore trees subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1975

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council



Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 17 MARCH 2014

SW/14/0109:
Variation of condition (2) of planning permission SW/12/1103 to allow a further 1 year to construct retail units (Until 1st January 2016) - Parcel 4, Thistle Hill, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0120:
Retrospective application for the erection of a 2.58m high fence - 27 Hugh Price Close, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 4**

SW/14/0124:
Variation to clause 5.1.1 of Section 106 Agreements dated 1997 and 2005 which restrict the use of the lower ground floor to B1 (business) use - Former Upper Brents Shipyard, Upper Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 6**

SW/14/0125:
Replacement of steel framed windows with UPVC windows at ground and first floor level - 32 East Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/14/0129:
Erection of 8 new maisonette type dwellings, associated parking, vehicular access and new cross over to pavement - Former Victoria Working Mens Club and Institute, Broadway, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/14/0147:
Single storey rear conservatory - 2 Edwins Place, Iwade Road, NEWINGTON; **REASON 1**

SW/14/0148:
Change of use of an orchard into a facility for the keeping of horses, including the construction of a livery/stable yard with stables, a schooling area, associated paddocks, fencing and an access road, together with the blocking up of the existing site access and the provision of an improved access in an alternative location with associated walls and gate - Land adjacent 'Orchard House', Fronting Oak Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0161:
The transfer of agricultural occupancy condition attached to the bungalow, Gibbens Farm, Bredgar to the cottage, Gore Farm, Upchurch - Gibbens Farm Bungalow, The Street, BREDGAR; **REASON 1**

SW/14/0163:
Removal of the existing car park and the erection of a 5-storey block of 4x 1 bed and 8x 2 bed flats, 12 car parking spaces - Land Adjacent to Telephone Exchange, Albany Road, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0164:
Replacement windows and doors - 4 Ospringe Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/14/0165:
Front porch and two storey side extension - 1 Roweths Cottage, Eastchurch Road, EASTCHURCH; **REASON 4**

SW/14/0176:
Retrospective application for a permanent dwelling to support an equestrian enterprise - Hazelhope Barn, Stalisfield Road, STALISFIELD; **REASON 4**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/0511/S - WIERTON PLACE, WIERTON ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JW - Change of use of existing nightclub and apartments to 1 dwelling and 6 apartments, including extensions and internal works; conversion and extension of the existing ball room to 2 dwellings; demolition of existing garage block and erection of 4 terraced properties; conversion and extension of existing glasshouses to 6 dwellings; and the erection of 5 detached dwellings to the north and south of the access track, together with associated access and landscape works in accordance with plans numbered 09.79.50 Rev A; 09.79.51 Rev A; 09.79.101 Rev B; 09.79.104 Rev A; 09.79.105 Rev A; D132799/1; 09.79.106 Rev A; 09.79.107 Rev A; 09.79.108 Rev A; 09.79.109 Rev A; 09.79.110 Rev A; 09.79.111; 09.79.112; 09.79.113 Rev A; 09.79.114 Rev A; 09.79.115 Rev A; 09.79.116; 09.79.117; 09.79.118; 09.79.119; 09.79.120; 09.79.121; 09.79.122; 2082-01 Tree Survey Drawing; D132799_1-Sheet-2; D132799_1-Sheet_3; D132799_8_R1-A0; D132799_9_r1-A0; D132799_10_A1-Conservatory; D132799_11-A0_Roof Plan; 07.79.100 _Location Plan; 6037 Bat Emergence Report (received 11 October 2011); Valuation Report (received 11 October 2011); Design and Access Statement; and Tree Survey Report as received on the 7 April 2011. **Reason: 1, 6**

MA/13/2134/N - F G BARNES AND SONS LTD, CUXTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9YF - Refurbishment of existing motor retail dealership. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0064/S - TEASAUCER STABLES, BOCKINGFORD LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DP - Re-grading of land levels and restoration of grazing in the western part of the site. Replacement of entrance gate with a new 5-bar gate. **Reason: 2, 6**

MA/14/0086/S - HARTS HOUSE, BOTTLESCREW HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4LY - Erection of an extension. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/14/0087/S - HARTS HOUSE, BOTTLESCREW HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4LY - Listed Building Consent for erection of an extension and internal alterations. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0138/N - BARN AT GREENWAY COURT FARM, GREENWAY COURT ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, KENT, ME17 1QD - Change of use and conversion of barn to live/work unit with amenity space, parking, access and landscaping. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0173/S - OAKWOOD PARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL, OAKWOOD PARK, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8AH - Erection of new teaching block. Removal of two temporary classroom blocks. New hard play area. Associated hard and soft landscaping. **Reason: 6**

MA/14/0189/S - LITTLE HICKMOTTS, SUMMERHILL ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9DB - A planning application for a replacement garage building. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0200/N - MULBERY & WELL COTTAGES HOLLINGBOURNE HOUSE, HOLLINGBOURNE HILL, HOLLINGBOURNE, KENT, ME17 1QJ - Listed Building Consent for new internal door opening, blocking of existing first floor window on south-east elevation of Mulberry Cottage, and removal of remains of greenhouses within walled garden. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0201/N - COURTYARD STUDIOS, HOLLINGBOURNE HOUSE, HOLLINGBOURNE HILL, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1QJ - Change of use of studio outbuilding and associated service areas to a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of Mulberry and Well Cottages, and erection of fencing around a tennis court. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0207/S - VIOLET ROSE COTTAGE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AU - First floor side extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0214/N - HIGH FARM, WEST STREET, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2EP - erection of a two storey rear extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0215/N - HIGH FARM, WEST STREET, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2EP - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a two storey rear extension. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed can be viewed on our website www.maidstone.gov.uk or at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **16th March 2014**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 2nd March 2014

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

14/00478/HOUSE **Broomhill Cottage Dingleden, Benenden**
- Extension to north and east elevations including internal changes and demolition (LB)

14/00488/LBC **Broomhill Cottage, Dingleden, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Extension to north and east elevations including internal changes and demolition (LB)

14/00504/HOUSE **Broomhill, Dingleden, Benenden**
- Garage and machinery store building (LB)

14/00449/HOUSE **Thistles, Whetsted Road, Capel**
- Timber garden room (LB)

14/00414/FULL **Strict Baptist Chapel, Town Hill, Lamberhurst**
- Extend brick edging to either side of steps, extend area of Victorian pavers at top of steps. shorten railings and make a paved circulation area on the north east - all to the front of the Chapel (LB) (CA)

14/00482/HOUSE **Arnold House High Street, Lamberhurst**
- Rear single storey extension (LB) (CA)

14/00485/LBC **Arnold House, High Street, Lamberhurst**
- Listed building consent - Rear single storey extension (LB)

14/00460/LBC **23 Mount Sion, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - alterations to replace/restore no. 8 windows, 1 no. front door and 1 no. french doors. Repairs to 1 no. original/early georgian sash window. Internal and external repairs and alterations to the building back into use as a residential dwelling (works commenced) (LB)

14/00473/HOUSE **29 Princes Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Two-storey and single-storey side extensions, and associated landscaping (CA)

14/00447/HOUSE **Sunset Cottage 3 Penshurst Road, Speldhurst**
- Garage conversion (CA)

13/03709/FULL **25 Beulah Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**
- Replacement of two existing, single glazed, louvred windows to side elevation with two new timber sliding sash windows painted white. Reinstating rotting and defective opening to the rear of the property with timber patio doors painted white leading onto existing concrete balcony (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 01 March 2014

Public Notice

2 March 2014

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Local Government Finance Act 1992
Information regarding Council Tax in accordance with Section 38

Notice is hereby given that on 13 February 2014 the Council set its Council Tax for the year 2014/15 and publishes notice of the following amounts payable which include Parish, Kent County Council, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority precepts:

Band	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Adisham	997.03	1,163.20	1,329.37	1,495.54	1,827.88	2,160.22	2,492.57	2,991.08
Barham	1,010.52	1,178.94	1,347.36	1,515.78	1,852.62	2,189.46	2,526.30	3,031.56
Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne	990.48	1,155.55	1,320.63	1,485.71	1,815.87	2,146.02	2,476.19	2,971.42
Bishopsbourne	995.36	1,161.25	1,327.14	1,493.03	1,824.81	2,156.59	2,488.39	2,986.06
Blean	993.28	1,158.83	1,324.37	1,489.92	1,821.01	2,152.10	2,483.20	2,979.84
Bridge	1,008.34	1,176.40	1,344.45	1,512.51	1,848.62	2,184.73	2,520.85	3,025.02
Chartham	1,020.20	1,190.24	1,360.27	1,530.30	1,870.36	2,210.43	2,550.50	3,060.60
Chestfield	1,003.69	1,170.97	1,338.25	1,505.53	1,840.09	2,174.65	2,509.22	3,011.06
Chislet	997.52	1,163.77	1,330.02	1,496.27	1,828.77	2,161.27	2,493.79	2,992.54
Fordwich	1,002.00	1,169.00	1,336.00	1,503.00	1,837.00	2,171.00	2,505.00	3,006.00
Hackington	992.46	1,157.87	1,323.28	1,488.69	1,819.51	2,150.33	2,481.15	2,977.38
Harbledown and Rough Common	998.79	1,165.25	1,331.72	1,498.18	1,831.11	2,164.03	2,496.97	2,996.36
Hardres Lower	991.05	1,156.22	1,321.40	1,486.57	1,816.92	2,147.26	2,477.62	2,973.14
Hardres Upper	996.41	1,162.48	1,328.54	1,494.61	1,826.74	2,158.88	2,491.02	2,989.22
Herne and Broomfield	1,000.46	1,167.20	1,333.94	1,500.68	1,834.16	2,167.64	2,501.14	3,001.36
Hoath	997.69	1,163.97	1,330.25	1,496.53	1,829.09	2,161.65	2,494.22	2,993.06
Ickham	992.78	1,158.25	1,323.71	1,489.17	1,820.09	2,151.02	2,481.95	2,978.34
Kingston	991.09	1,156.27	1,321.45	1,486.63	1,816.99	2,147.35	2,477.72	2,973.26
Littlebourne	1,026.63	1,197.73	1,368.84	1,539.94	1,882.15	2,224.35	2,566.57	3,079.88
Petham	1,003.77	1,171.06	1,338.36	1,505.65	1,840.24	2,174.82	2,509.42	3,011.30
Sturry	997.52	1,163.77	1,330.02	1,496.27	1,828.77	2,161.27	2,493.79	2,992.54
Thanington Without	998.04	1,164.38	1,330.72	1,497.06	1,829.74	2,162.42	2,495.10	2,994.12
Waltham	1,001.36	1,168.26	1,335.15	1,502.04	1,835.82	2,169.61	2,503.40	3,004.08
Westbere	1,021.78	1,192.07	1,362.37	1,532.66	1,873.25	2,213.84	2,554.44	3,065.32
Wickhambreaux	1,011.92	1,180.58	1,349.23	1,517.88	1,855.18	2,192.49	2,529.80	3,035.76
Womenswold	994.63	1,160.40	1,326.17	1,491.94	1,823.48	2,155.02	2,486.57	2,983.88
All other parts of the council's area	978.61	1,141.71	1,304.81	1,467.91	1,794.11	2,120.31	2,446.52	2,935.82

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
CANTERBURY CT1 1YW

Do not gamble on people seeing your public notices, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817056

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED) AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SW/0042/2014 - Proposed development at Tunstall C of E Primary School, Tunstall, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DX

Tunstall C of E Primary School is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for the renewal of planning consent SW/11/1451 for the retention of a single and a double mobile classroom unit and PTA store.

The proposed development is within the Tunstall Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planningrepresentations@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 2nd March 2014

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/14/00019 Erection of 1.8m high fence
2 Oast Cottages, School Road, Tilmanstone, Deal, CT14 0JJ **LCF**

DOV/14/00135 Insertion of roof light and internal alterations
Long House, 62 Strand Street, Sandwich, CT13 9HP **LCN**

DOV/14//00141 Installation of new stay wires and cabling for new network, removal of 1 span of overhead HV cable, 3 spans of overhead LV cable, 3 poles and associated works
Overhead Lines, Great Pedding Farm, Pedding Lane, Shatterling, CT3 1JS **RSLB**

DOV/14/00155 Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 9 self-contained flats (existing church to be demolished)
The Beacon Church & Christian Centre, London Road, Dover, CT17 0SS **CAF**

DOV/14/00133 Erection of a rear conservatory extension
Saddlers Cottage, Saddlers Hill, Goodnestone, Canterbury, CT3 1PE **CON**

DOV/14/00137 Continued use of land as car park for a period of 36 months
Broadlees Car Park, Upper Road, Dover, CT16 1HW **CON**

DOV/14/00142 Variation of Condition 2 of DOV/13/00866 to allow changes to position of garage (application under Section 73)
Copthorne, Dover Road, Guston, Dover, CT15 5EN **ARW**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
LCF – Affects a Listed Building, Conservation Area and Public Footpath
ARW – Affects a Public Right of Way **LCN** – Listed Building in a Conservation Area
RSLB - Affects the setting of a Listed Building and a public right of way
CAF – The proposal affects a Conservation Area **CON** – Within Conservation Area

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent within **21 days marked** "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW231 IN THE PARISH OF GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON

PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW231 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath AW231 between Harvest Way and Wesley School Road from the 17th March 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 30th June 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Harvest Way, Knoll Lane and Cuckoo Lane.

For detailed enquiries please contact Faye Faiers

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way Network see:

http:/www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT108 IN THE PARISH OF STONE-CUM-EBONY

PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT108 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath AT108, between its junction with Church Hill and Military Road from the 25th February 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is closed because works to assess and repair a damaged bridge are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Faye Faiers

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CH39 IN THE PARISH OF HERNE AND BROOMFIELD

PUBLIC FOOTPATH CH39 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath CH39, between its junction with CH70 and Ridgeway Road from the 14th March 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen by the beginning of April 2014.

The path is to be closed because resurfacing works are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Ridgeway Road, Forgefields and Norton Avenue and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Melvyn Twycross

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION PUBLIC PATH ORDERS HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH125 (PART) THURNHAM PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT ORDER 2012

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH125 (PART) HOLLINGBOURNE PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT ORDER 2012

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH130 (PART) HOLLINGBOURNE PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT ORDER 2012

On the 10th February 2014, an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed with modification the above Public Footpath KH125 (part) Thurnham Order (the Order comes into effect 28 days after the date of confirmation and not upon confirmation) and the other two Orders set out above without modification under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Orders as confirmed is to **divert: (1)** The entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH125 commencing from a point to the south of Cobham Oast House on Water Lane in the parish of Thurnham and running in an easterly and east south easterly direction for 510 metres to rejoin the unaffected length of KH125 at GR8195 5705. **(2)** The entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH125 Commencing from a point to the southwest of the property known as Whitehall in the parish of Hollingbourne and running in an east south-easterly direction through the garden of Whitehall for 33 metres to its junction with public bridleway KH134. **(3)** The entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH130 Commencing from a point 75 metres to the south west of Ripple Manor (GR 81964 56559) running in a north-easterly direction for 66 metres and then for 48 metres in a south-easterly direction to its junction with public bridleway KH134 (GR 82066 56559); and to provide: **(1) A new length of public footpath numbered KH125 in the parish of Thurnham** with a width of 2 metres commencing at GR 8195 5705 and running south south-westerly through a woodland Shaw for 112 metres and then turning south-westerly crossing pasture for 190 metres to then run in a west north-westerly direction for 320 metres crossing pastureland to join and cross Water Lane at GR 8139 5698 to then run north north-easterly along the western side of the boundary hedge adjacent to Water Lane for 260 metres to junction with existing public footpath KH124. **(2) A new length of public footpath numbered KH125 in the parish of Hollingbourne** with a width of 2.5 metres, (except at point A where the width is 1.1 metres and from point D towards point E on the Order Plan where the new route narrows to 1 – 1.4 metres for a distance of 3 metres), commencing at GR 82126 56987 and running in a south-westerly direction for 48 metres and then for 31 metres in an east south-easterly direction to rejoin public bridleway KH134. **(3) A new length of public footpath numbered KH130** with a width of 2 metres, commencing at the point 75 metres to the southwest of Ripple Manor and running in an easterly direction for 92 metres to rejoin public bridleway KH134 at GR 82054 56533. All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Orders and Maps have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of the Maidstone Borough Council, King Street, Maidstone. Alternatively, copies may also be viewed at the Customer and Communities division of Kent County Council, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX and copies of the Orders and maps may also be bought there.

The Orders come into force on the 10th March 2014, but if a person aggrieved by the Orders wants to question their validity, or that of any provision contained in them, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Orders, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 2nd March 2014, make an application to the High Court.

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR505 IN THE PARISHES OF GRAVENEY AND GOODNESTONE AND HERNHILL

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR505 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close ZR505, between its junction with Public Footpath ZR497 and Public Footpath ZR504 from the 24th February 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is closed because works to assess and repair a concrete bridge are to be undertaken and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Public Footpath ZR497 to Head Hill Road, north to Public Footpath ZR493 and then south along Public footpath ZR504 and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michael Ellis

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 2nd March 2014**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 03000 417171 (local rate) Mon-Fri 9am-5pm or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

CHEESEMAN'S GREEN LANE, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to overhead phone network for cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Cheeseman's Green Lane, Ashford.

Cheeseman's Green Lane will be closed between the junctions with Highfield Lane and South Stour Road.

Off-peak closures are planned to commence from 18 March 2014 for up to 3 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Highfield Lane Kingsford Street, Blind Lane, Flood Street and South Stour Road.

POUND LANE, SMEETH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of excavations in the carriageway to install an electricity cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Pound Lane, Smeeth.

A closure is planned to commence from 17 March 2014 for up to 5 days.

Pound Lane will be closed outside Warren Cottage, to the north east of the junction with Plain Road. There is access from either direction up to where the road is closed, but no through access.

The alternative route is via Plain Road and Canterbury Road.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

A2042 ROMNEY MARSH ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to improve road surface markings and install cats eyes, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A2042 Romney Marsh Road, Ashford.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 4 March 2014 for up to 2 nights, from 21:00 hours through until 06:00 hours each night.

On Tuesday 4 March, Romney Marsh Road will be closed between the junctions with A2042 Bad Munstereifel Road and B2229 Norman Road / Kimberley Way (Outlet Centre).

On Wednesday 5 March, Romney Marsh Road will be closed between B2229 Norman Road / Kimberley Way (Outlet Centre) and the roundabout junction with Newtown Road

The alternative route for both closures is via A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road, Willesborough Interchange, A292 Hythe Road, Mace Lane, Wellesley Road, Station Road, A2042 Beaver Road and Romney Marsh Road.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

BROAD OAK LEVEL CROSSING, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MARCH 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance and repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Broad Oak Level Crossing, Sturry.

Broad Oak Road, Sturry will be closed at Broad Oak Level Crossing

A closure is planned to commence from Sunday 23 March 2014 at 08:00 hours through until Monday 24 March at 04:00hrs.

The alternative route is via Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road, A28 Mill Road, A291 Sturry Hill, Sweechgate and Shalloak Road.

EVERSLEIGH RISE, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide sewerage services to a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Eversleigh Rise, Whitstable.

A closure is planned to commence from 17 March 2014 for up to 3 weeks.

Eversleigh Rise will be closed in the vicinity of numbers 93-99.

Access for properties 101-125 will be via Golden Hill, with the temporary removal of the bollards that normally prevent access.

FAVERSHAM ROAD, SEASALTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow repairs to the railway bridge to be safely carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Faversham Road, Seasalter.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 17 March 2014 for up to 2 nights, from 21:30 hours through until 05:30 hours each night.

Faversham Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge, with access from either direction up to the point of closure, but no through access.

The alternative routes are

Westbound via Seasalter Lane, A299 Thanet Way, Staple Street, Staple Street Road, Head Hill, Head Hill Road and Seasalter Road

Eastbound via Seasalter Road, Head Hill Road, Head Hill, Whitstable Road, A299 Thanet Way, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, B2205 Borstal Hill, Joy Lane and Faversham Road.

ST STEPHEN'S LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MARCH 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow level crossing maintenance works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Stephen's Level Crossing, Canterbury, as shown below.

St Stephen's Road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

Closures are planned as follows

Monday 17 March 2014 at 23:00 hours through until 04:30 hours

Sunday 23 March 2014 at 01:00 hours through until Monday 24 March at 04:30 hours

The alternative route is via St Stephen's Road, Station Road West, St Dunstan's Street, Forty Acres Road, Beaconsfield Road, St Stephen's Hill and St Stephen's Green.

The alternative pedestrian route is via St Stephen's Court, St Stephen's Path, Station Road West and St Stephen's Road

STOUR STREET & HOSPITAL LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on sections of Stour Street and Hospital Lane, Canterbury, on or after 3 March 2014.

STOUR STREET will be closed from 3 March 2014 for up to 2 weeks.

The closure is from the entrance to Temple Mews to the junction with Adelaide Place

HOSPITAL LANE will be closed from 17 March 2014 for up to 2 weeks.

The road will be closed for its entire

The alternative through route for both closures is via Stour Street, Beer Cart Lane, Watling Street, A28 Rhodaus Town, Pin Hill, Castle Street and Rosemary Lane

The dates for the closures are approximate and may vary according to progress with the works, as well as ground and weather conditions.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open either road outside the working hours.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

ALKHAM ROAD, KEARSNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the railway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Alkham Road, Kearsney.

Alkham Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 3 March 2014 for up to 5 nights, from 21:30 hours through until 05:30 hours each night.

The alternative route is via Alkham Road, Lower Road (Temple Ewell), High Street and London Road.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

GREEN FARM LANE, SHORNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because BT require safe access to underground structure for cabling works for new customer connection., Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Green Farm Lane, Shorne, Gravesend on or after 3rd March 2014 between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Lower Road to the junction with Burdett Avenue.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Lower Road, Church Lane and Gravesend Road.

A289 WAINSCOTT NORTHERN BYPASS, HIGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of, the replacement of the enhanced message sign on the gantry on the westbound carriageway Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A289, Wainscott Northern Bypass, for up to 4 nights between the hours of 21.00 and 06.00hrs.The dates are as follows:

3rd/4th March 2014

4th/5th March 2014

10th/11th March 2014

11th/12th March 2014

The road will be closed Westbound carriageway from A226 Gravesend Road to M2 Junction 1.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions

The alternative route is via The A226 Gravesend Road, B2108 Rede Court Road, A2 Watling Street (westbound) A2 West Bound and coastbound traffic will be diverted off at the Cobham turn off and rejoin the A2, Coastbound via Brewers Road (overbridge) Shorne.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

RUNHAM LANE, LENHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Runham Lane, Lenham, on or after 17 March 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside "The Oast House".

The alternative route is via Sandway Road, Headcorn Road and Lenham Road.

TERRACE ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to access an underground structure and cabling for a new fibre connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic turning right from Terrace Road on to A20 London Road on or after 17 March 2014 for up to 2 nights between 23.30hrs and 05.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A20 London Road northbound, round the 20/20 roundabout and southbound A20 London Road.

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR) ORDER 2014

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2 (1) to 3, 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2) 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, intends to make the following Order:

The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Borough of Maidstone) (School Keep Clear) Order

2014 shall have effect in the Schedule as though -

SCHEDULE

PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS MONDAY TO FRIDAY BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 9:00AM AND BETWEEN 3:00PM AND 4:00PM

1. **Ash Grove–**Northern side

From a point 64 metres from its junction with Conway Road in a south-easterly direction for a distance of 31 metres

And from a point 138 metres from its junction with Conway Road in a south-easterly direction for distance of 36 metres

And from a point 204 metres from its junction with Conway Road in a south-easterly direction for a distance of 26 metres

2. **Hillary Road–**Eastern side

From a point 30 metres northeast from its junction with Gladstone Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 69 metres

Western side

From a point 30 metres northeast from its junction with Gladstone Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 57 metres

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the offices of Kent Highways & Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent. TN24 8AD and at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to MHF@kent.gov.uk, by not later than 12 noon on Monday 24th March 2014.

(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) WAITING RESTRICTIONS CONSOLIDATION VARIATION NO 20 ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the proposed named Order will amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice SYL means (single yellow lines) Waiting to be prohibited Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm) and DYL (double yellow lines) No waiting at any Time

1. **ASH GROVE**

North side, SYL, from a point 182 metres southeast from the centre of its junction with Conway Road in a south easterly direction for a distance of 22 metres

2. **PEEL STREET**

Both sides, SYL, from the centre of its junction with Gladstone Road in a north easterly direction for a distance of 30 metres.

3. **HILLARY ROAD**

East side, DYL, from the entrance of St Paul's Infant School in a north easterly direction to a point adjacent to the common boundary of properties No.109 / No.111 Hillary Road

Full details are contained in the proposed Order, any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Kent Highways & Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD during normal office hours.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to MHF@kent.gov.uk, by not later than 12 noon on Monday 24th March 2014.

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) ORDER 2014 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 44, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby makes the following Order:-

The effect of the order shall be to formalise the prohibited turns on the following roads or lengths of roads:

1. **BRUNSWICK STREET–**No left turn into Upper Stone Street
2. **BRUNSWICK STREET EAST–**No right turn into Upper Stone Street

The Order will come into effect on Friday 7th March 2014.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 03000 418181 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

A copy of the Order, statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the Order may be examined on Mondays to Friday at Kent County Council, Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD and at Kent County Council, County Hall Reception, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

A259 CHERITON ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable a detailed inspection of the railway bridge to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A259 Cheriton Road, Folkestone.

Cheriton Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge, with no through access between the junctions with Castle Hill Avenue and Radnor Park Road.

An overnight closure is planned for Tuesday 4 March 2014 from 22:00 hours through until 06:00 hours

The alternative routes are

Northbound via A2034 Cheriton Road, Foresters Way, Grace Hill, A2033 Foord Road North and A259 Radnor Park Road

Southbound via A259 Radnor Park Road, Pavilion Road, Black Bull Road, A2033 Foord Road North, New Street, Bradstone Road, Dover Road, Grace Hill, Shellons Street, Middelburg Square, A2034 Cheriton Gardens, A259 Shorncliffe Road and Castle Hill Avenue

There will be a suspension of the Order that prevents right turns from the northbound carriageway of Castle Hill Avenue into Cheriton Road.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

HARBOUR STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow building repairs to be safely carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Harbour Street, Broadstairs.

Harbour Street will be closed in the vicinity of York Gate House.

A closure is planned to commence from 17 March 2014 with estimated completion by Friday 4 April 2014.

There is no alternative route. Access will remain for pedestrians. Arrangements are in place to allow access for services, deliveries and emergency vehicles.

Harbour Street car park will be closed.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

OAKLANDS AVENUE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to relay a sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Oaklands Avenue, Broadstairs.

Oaklands Avenue will be closed the junctions with Ranelagh Grove and Warren Drive, with no through access.

A closure is planned to commence from 3 March 2014 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Vicarage Street, A255 Broadstairs Road, Green Lane and Warren Drive.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (POTHOLE REPAIRS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MARCH 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow carriageway patching works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads in the Thanet area, on or after 3 March 2014.

The roads affected, planned dates and times of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

KING EDWARD ROAD, BIRCHINGTON – closed in the vicinity of the junction with Canterbury Road

3 March 2014 – 1 day between 09:30 hours and 15:00 hours

Alternative route via Canterbury Road Quex View Road and Brunswick Road

THE PASSAGE, MARGATE – closed for its entire length, also including access to Sea Court

4 March 2014 – 2 days between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*

BROCKENHURST ROAD, RAMSGATE – closed in the vicinity of the junction with Victoria Parade

6 March 2014 – 2 days between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day Alternative route via B2054 Victoria Parade, Lyndhurst Road and Queens Road

WINTERSTOKE WAY, RAMSGATE – closed for its entire length (between Dumpton Park Drive and Winterstoke Crescent)

10 March 2014 – 2 days between 08:30 hours and 16:00 hours each day

The alternative route is Dumpton Park Drive, Thanet Road, B2054 Victoria Parade and Winterstoke Crescent

UPPER DUMPTON PARK ROAD, RAMSGATE – closed between the junctions with Boundary Road and St Luke's Avenue

17 March 2014 – 5 weekdays, between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day

Alternative route via A255 Boundary Road, Hardres Road and St Luke's Avenue

RODNEY STREET, RAMSGATE – closed between properties number 1 and number 43

24 March 2014 – 3 Days between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day

The alternative routes are

Northbound via Addington Street and West Cliff Road

Southbound via West Cliff Road, Royal Road, Townley Street and Addington Street.

MILL ROW, BIRCHINGTON – closed in the vicinity of Canterbury Road, also affecting access to Mill Lane

31 March 2014 – 3 days between 09:30 hours and 15:00 hours each day

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*

For those roads that are *cul-de-sacs*, every effort will be made to maintain as much access as possible when safe to do so, but some delays are inevitable.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF THANET) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 5 & 6 ORDER 2014

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to :-

Amendment No. 5. Reduce the speed limit from Derestricted to 30mph on the following roads in Margate: Nash Road–from the junction with Wherry Close to a point in line with the north western boundary wall of Nash Farm.

Amendment No. 6. Reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph on the following roads in Margate: King Street (between Trinity Hill and The Parade); Broad Street (entire length); and Love Lane (entire length).

A copy of the proposed Orders, explanatory statements and maps showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD .

Any persons wishing to support the proposals, or to object to either should write to Kelly Garrett, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 23/03/2014.

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

PILGRIMS WAY, WROTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing after a vehicle fire, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way, Wrotham, on or after 4 March 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A20 London Road to Nepicar Lane.

The alternative route is via A20 London Road and Nepicar Lane.

PINE TREE LANE & HIGH CROSS ROAD, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pine Tree Lane on or after 17 March 2014 and High Cross Road on or after 19 March 2014 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route for Pine Tree Lane is via Coach Road and Stone Street Road and for High Cross Road is via A227 Tonbridge Road and Ismays Road.

A228 SEVEN MILE LANE, EAST PECKHAM (TEMPORARY 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION)

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gully cleansing, sign clearance and hedge cutting, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic travelling at any greater speed than 30mph on A228 Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham, on or after 17 March 2014 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The restriction is between A26 Alders roundabout and B2015 Maidstone Road roundabout.

TAYLORS LANE, TROTTISCLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of remedial works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Taylors Lane, Trottiscliffe, on or after 18 March 2014 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Green Lane.

The alternative route is via Vigo Hill, A227 Gravesend Road, A20 London Road, Ford Lane and The Street.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

SOMERSET ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary for a crane to lift a temporary classroom into Skinners School, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Somerset Road, on or after 8 March 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A26 St John's Road to Mereworth Road.

The alternative route is via A26 St John's Road, East Cliff Road and Mereworth Road.

HIGHWAYS – WEST KENT AREA

VARIOUS ROADS, KENT (RESURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after 17th March 2014 for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

DARTFORD

A296 PRINCES ROAD (JUNCTION 1B), DARTFORD

Phase 1 – Princes Road eastbound approach to Junction 1B, closed between A296 Park Road to Junction 1B gyratory.

Diversion will be via A296 Park Road, A226 The Brent, B2500 Watling Street and A296 Princes Road.

Phase 2 – Princes Road westbound approach to Junction 1B, closed between Gore Road to Junction 1B gyratory.

Diversion will be via B2500 Watling Street, A226 The Brent, A296 Park Road and A296 Princes Road.

Closures: 28th April 2014 to 8th May 2014 – 10.00pm until 05.00am (excluding weekend/bank holiday working)

A296 PRINCES ROAD (EASTBOUND ONLY), DARTFORD

Closed eastbound only between Junction 1B gyratory and Gore Road

29th April 2014 to 2nd May 2014 – 10.00pm until 5.00am

Diversion will be via B2500 Watling Street, A226 The Brent, A296 Park Road and A296 Princes Road. (to be carried out in the middle of the Junction 1B works above)

B2174 ST JAMES LANE, DARTFORD

Closed between A296 Watling Street and A226 London Road

17th March to 19th March 2014 – 09:30 until 15:00

Diversion will be via A296 Watling Street, B2500 Watling Street, A226 The Brent and A226 London Road

B262 BETSHAM ROAD/SANDBANKS HILL, SOUTHFLEET

Closed between B260 Green Street Green Road and Westwood Road

6th May to 14th May 2014 – 09:30 until 15:30 (excluding weekends)

Diversion will be via B260 Green Street Green Road, B260 Main Road, New Barn Road and B262 Station Road

GRAVESHAM

A2260 SPRINGHEAD ROAD, NORTHFLEET

Closed between Hall Road Roundabout to Waterdales

25th April 2014 to 30th April 2014 – 8.00pm until 02.00am (excluding weekend) Diversion will be via A2 Watling Street, B259, A2260 and A226 Thames Way

MAIDSTONE

B2246 Fountain Lane, Barming

closed between its junction with A26 Tonbridge Road and Heath Grove.

Diversion via the B2246 Hermitage Lane, A20 London Road and the A20 Terrace Road.

22 to 25 April 2014 – 21:00 to 05:00

Farleigh Lane, Barming

closed between its junction with A26 Tonbridge Road and Glebe Lane.

Diversion via Glebe Lane.

22 to 25 April 2014 – 21:00 to 05:00

SEVENOAKS

A25 WESTERHAM ROAD, CHEVENING

Closed WESTBOUND between A21 Sevenoaks By-Pass Northbound off-slip to A21 Sevenoaks By-Pass Southbound on-slip

15th May 2014 to 16th May 2014 – 9.00pm until 5.00am

Diversion will be via southbound A21 Sevenoaks By-Pass, exit at Riverhill and return back onto A21 Sevenoaks By-Pass northbound.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING

Hall Road, Aylesford

Closed between its junctions with Station Road and The Avenue

Diversion via the A20 and Station Road

24 April 2014–19:00 to 05:00

A227 Shipbourne Road, Hadlow

Closed between its junctions with Puttenden Road and Back Lane

Diversion via the B245 London Road, A225 Riverhill, A225 Tonbridge Road, A225 High Street, A225 Dartford, A225 St John's Hill, A25 Seal Road, A25 High Street, A25 Maidstone Road, A25 Sevenoaks Road, A225 Ightham By-Pass, A227 Borough Green Road, A227 Bates Hill, A227 Tonbridge Road and the A227 Ightham Road.

16 April 2014 – 22:00 to 05:00

Branbridges Road, East Peckham

Closed between its junctions with A228 Boyle Way and Old Road

Diversion via the A228 Boyle Way, Maidstone Road and Hale Street.

17 April 2014 – 22:00 to 05:00

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

A229 HIGHGATE HILL, HAWKHURST

Closed between its junctions with the A268 and The Moor

Diversion via the A268, the A21 and the A229.

30th April 2014 to 6th May 2014 – 19:00 to 06:00

(excluding weekend/bank holiday working)

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 2nd March 2014

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 03000 418181 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

Hutchy is ready to live dream on return from horror injury

Picture: MILWAUKEE YAMAHA



An incredible comeback after 18 months without riding a bike booked Ian Hutchinson a place in the British Superbike Championship this season with Folkestone's FFX Yamaha. He talks to **Greg Miles** about how his dream has come true.

HE spent three years struggling with injuries and was told to have his leg amputated by doctors after a horrific crash.

But now Ian Hutchinson is back and fulfilling a lifetime's dream by competing in the British Superbike Championship.

The 34-year-old, who is more known for his road-racing exploits in the Isle of Man TT as a record five-race winner in one year, wants to cement his name as a force to be reckoned with on the racing circuits of Britain this year.

He will be supported in that endeavour by his new team FFX Yamaha, who are backed by Folkestone power-tool-supplier FFX.

While Kent has riders of its own, with three-time winner Shane 'Shakey' Byrne and Aylesford's Howie Mainwaring to get behind, it has not before had its own team for motorsports fans to support.

While its branding is new, it is a set-up with which Hutchinson is familiar.

The bike is an R1 Yamaha from the Shaun Muir Racing outfit with whom the Yorkshire rider has been for the last three seasons under the Milwaukee Yamaha banner.

It means that, rather than starting from scratch, 'Hutchy' has several years of data already behind him.

An unexpected winning ride for Milwaukee Yamaha at the Macau Grand Prix in November after 18 months out put him back in the minds of motorsports fans. He knows that success gave him the chance of a season in BSB.

"I went out there with strong hopes I could ride well," he said. "To win it at any point in your career takes some doing, so to win it after three years of not riding properly and 18 months since I'd sat on a bike, it brought back that everything was worth it.

"Obviously, winning the event got me my ride on this superbike. Without winning I wouldn't have thought I'd be here so soon. I would have probably been in one of the support classes.

"It's good to be rewarded for what I've done. My team have supported me to put me in the premier class."

His potentially career-ending moment came a week after his historic clean sweep of five senior TT wins in 2010.

> **"The surgeons knew the only reason I wanted to keep my leg was to race again. It would have been far easier to have gone for having it taken off"**
>
> **Ian Hutchinson,** on his horror crash and injury

On a wet Silverstone in the British Supersport Championship he fell and was hit by another rider, fracturing both his leg bones, the tibia and fibia.

It meant he had to wear a metal cage around his leg during recovery and have multiple skin-grafts after his leg arteries were ripped apart. His rehab was also interrupted after he again broke his leg while riding an off-road bike in rehearsals for a stunt show in 2012.

"It goes on and on when you're in and out of hospital having operations, when you're at the stage where you can't walk," said the man nicknamed the Bingley Bullet.

"You can't even begin to explain to people what's going on when you've had such an injury. It's always in your mind what you've been through, when you're in the gym, having physio, from barely being able to put weight on my leg.

"If you do it all and never have success again, it would be a kick in the nuts, really, for what you've been through."

Hutchinson tried to remain as positive as possible while out of action as surgeons encouraged him to go down the amputation route, such was the severity of his leg-break.

"I could never let the thought of not returning enter my head," he said.

"Right from the start the surgeons knew the only reason I wanted to keep my leg was to race again.

"It would have been far easier to have gone for having it taken off, but I couldn't race then.

"It was never an option for me. It was all about getting back to racing."

While eager to get going, he is taking a realistic approach to his return.

"I don't really want to set any goals. I've only done four races in a superbike class, which was seven years ago now," he said.

"It's obviously a very competitive championship. I'm glad to have a whole season to work at it and will take each round as it comes.

"The bike is capable of running at the front and I have a fantastic team around me. We're going to work together and get it done.

"So long as we progress and we are at a relatively competitive level at the end of the year I'll be happy. I would like to go in and win races – that's what I race for – but I've got to be realistic with it.

"There's a lot of experienced riders, though. I'm not discounting that I can ride at the front, but I won't be too disappointed if I'm not there at the start. We've got the package to get there and as long as we do step up that's what I'll be happy with."

> **"I'm lucky in the respect we're not going to have to do masses of development work. I'm just going to be out there getting mileage on it"**
>
> **Ian Hutchinson,** on getting the bike ready for BSB

Hutchinson revealed it had been a long-time ambition to compete in the series but feels his road-racing has pigeonholed him at times, making it hard to realise his dream.

He does have experience on the circuits, although his BSB time was limited to just four rides in 2007 when he deputised for Ashford's ace Leon Camier in the Bike Animal Honda team.

Hutchy has mixed his time between the British Superstock Championship and the road-racing competitions the TT, Ulster Grand Prix and North West 200.

He has already confirmed his entry for the NW200 in May but looks likely to miss the TT because of new restrictive rules that do not permit the entry of his superbike.

"My goal once I started racing and started to understand the British championship was to get into the superbike class," he said.

"I've had some success on the roads – in some respect it's helped me, but it has also gone against me as people class me as a road-rider.

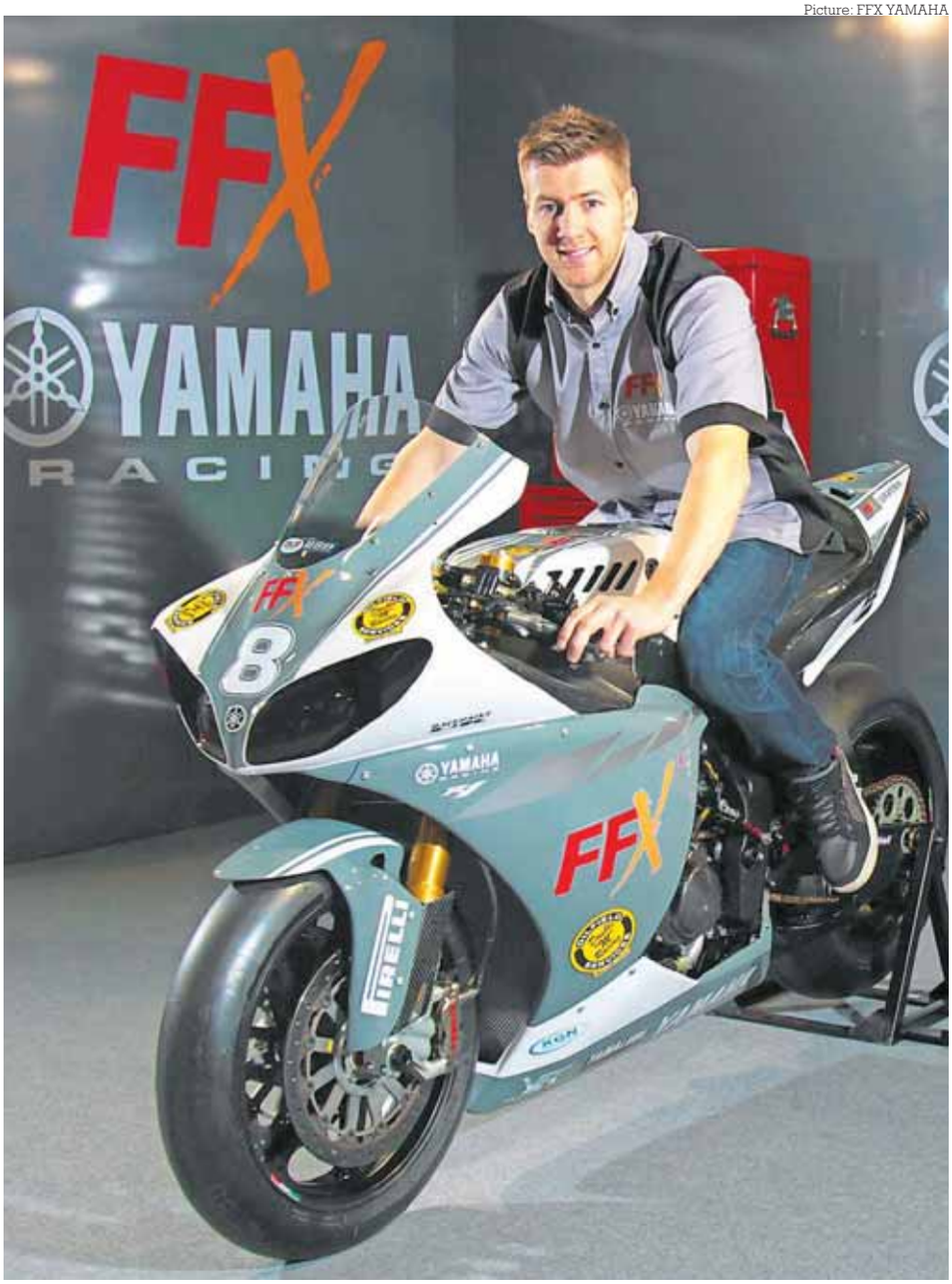
"It would be good to be a leading road-racer that can ride at the front in a superbike championship as well."

Although it is a new team, Hutchinson certainly will not be starting from scratch, with the bike coming out of the Milwaukee Yamaha set-up and one with which he is familiar.

"The only thing that's new is the colour scheme. It's had four years of development now and not going to develop any more," he said.

"I'm lucky in the respect we're not going to have to do masses of development work. I'm just going to be out there getting mileage on it."

Picture: FFX YAMAHA



DATA: FFX Yamaha can hit the ground running as Hutchinson is familiar with the bike's set-up from previous rides

Hutchinson backed to surprise the field on second attempt in British Superbike contest

SHAUN Muir, who runs SMR, the team behind Milwaukee Yamaha, helped put FFX Yamaha together.

FFX was a secondary sponsor of Milwaukee last year and decided to go it alone for 2014.

''We felt it was right to bring in a second factory-supported team,'' said Muir.

''I approached them. It became apparent they would like to be involved at a higher level and we facilitated that. We've got a lot of hardware from when our World Superbike team drew to a close and so to build a dedicated R1 Yamaha was not hard to do.''

Bringing in Hutchinson was a no-brainer, in truth, considering that the duo have worked together in road-racing competitions for the past few years.

''I wanted to get the best out of Ian,'' said Muir.

''I didn't feel I needed to look any further. We felt it was a straightforward decision.

''I've had him for three seasons now and I've got a huge amount of respect for the guy.

''We never got to see him ride on the short circuits before. I think he will surprise a lot of riders.

''That top six will be a challenge. He can put in some sparkling performances.''

Northern Irish rider Andy Reid will also line up for FFX Yamaha in the Pirelli National Superstock 600 Championship.

He progresses to the class after ending the 2013 season in the Motostar Championship, claiming three race victories from just six contests.

The 2014 MCE British Superbike Championship starts at Brands Hatch this Easter (April 18-21).

Advance ticket can be bought at www.brandshatch.co.uk or by phoning 0843 453 9000.

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Relief as Stevens cleared in Bangladesh corruption case

KENT'S Darren Stevens has thanked fans for their support after he was found not guilty of charges relating to corruption in Bangladesh.

The all-rounder faced two charges of failing to report a corrupt approach while he was playing for the Dhaka Gladiators in the Bangladesh Premier League last year.

The 37-year-old said: "This has been a long journey and I would like to express my gratitude to my partner Katie, my family, friends, Kent County Cricket Club, my fellow peers, legal team and all those who have supported me.

"I can assure all of the fans of the Dhaka Gladiators, the people of Bangladesh and all cricket followers that I have always played the game of cricket honestly, with integrity and to the best of my ability. I have loved playing cricket in Bangladesh, as well as everywhere else in the world."



STEVENS: Not guilty



IN: Hathaway to start next season

Hathaway to replace Foley at Maidstone

MAIDSTONE rugby club have confirmed the appointment of former Gravesend and Tunbridge Wells lead coach Paul Hathaway as Andy Foley's replacement.

Foley will be leaving the role of director of rugby at the end of the season and will be replaced by Hathaway for the 2014/15 campaign.

Hathaway most recently coached National 3 South side Gravesend and returns to the club where he spent six years as a player and will take control of the first-team squad on June 1.

Chairman Jon Sargent said: "Paul's appointment is a great coup for the club."

Boss sacked, then chairman quits

RAMSGATE chairman Paul Jefcoate has resigned after sacking manager Tim Dixon and his assistant Darren Beale at the weekend.

The Rams won 2-1 at Southwood on Saturday, but it was not enough to save Dixon and Beale, who were dismissed afterwards.

Club captain Dean Hill and youth coach Mark Weatherley have been in charge this week and managed the side in the 2-1 defeat to Sittingbourne on Tuesday.

Former chairman Jefcoate said in a statement: "Please be sure that any of my decisions have been made purely for the betterment of the club (in my opinion) and given that the board and I feel that they were not correct, I am standing down with immediate effect."

He also said that Dixon and Beale were looking to resign after meetings on Saturday.

F1 legend gets a feel for Lydden

FORMER F1 World Champion Jacques Villeneuve started testing at Lydden Hill last weekend ahead of the World Rallycross Championship.

Driving in his Albatec Racing run Peugeot 208, the Indianapolis 500 winner and IndyCar star completed 40 laps at the home of British rallycross.

Bollinger signs as Kent's overseas man

KENT have signed Australian bowler Doug Bollinger as their overseas player for the 2014 season.

The 32-year-old has most recently played for New South Wales in the Sheffield Shield in his home nation, taking 21 wickets at an average of 25.47, and was also on standby for the Aussies throughout the winter's Ashes series.

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List Price	£19,965	Excess Mileage Charge,Based on 6,000 miles per annum	
Our Cash Price	£9,980	(Pence Per Mile)	14.9p
Deposit	£99	Borrowing Rate	3.55%
Amount of Credit	£9,881		6.9% APR
Interest Charges	£1,539.54		
Total Amount Payable	£11,519.54		

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Our Cash Price	£7,495	(Pence Per Mile)	14.9p
Deposit	£99	Borrowing Rate	3.55%
Amount of Credit	£7,396		6.9% APR
Interest Charges	£1,130.16		
Total Amount Payable	£8,625.16		

13 Reg Vauxhall Corsa SE 1.4 5dr



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36 Monthly Payments	£151.96	GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£3,626.19
List Price	£16,095	Excess Mileage Charge,Based on 6,000 miles per annum	
Our Cash Price	£7,995	(Pence Per Mile)	14.9p
Deposit	£99	Borrowing Rate	3.55%
Amount of Credit	£7,896		6.9% APR
Interest Charges	£1,200.75		
Total Amount Payable	£9,195.75		

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